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THE RUSSIAN QUESTION.

PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF has exhibited singular adroitness in selecting the present critical moment to create a fresh disturbance in the political atmosphere, already so highly charged that any further derangement of it must be earnestly deprecated. But as his object in thus inopportunely appearing upon the stage as the personification of an aggrieved country, is to demand a reopening of questions which it was hoped had been definitively settled by the Treaty of 1856, it behoves us to consider calmly and dispassionately the nature of the demand, and in an impartial and judicial spirit to weigh well the allegations upon which this unexpected demand is based. In order to do this with a becoming sense of the gravity of the situation in which this country, amongst others, is placed, we should at any rate, whilst assuming temporarily the character of arbitrators, refrain as much as possible from importing unnecessary causes of aggravation into the inquiry and from employing language such as that which we regret to find adopted by the leading journal at the very outset. It will not, we are convinced, bearing in mind the events which immediately preceded the present war, assist the settlement of this vexed question if one of the parties interested begin by stigmatising the conduct of the other as "insolent."

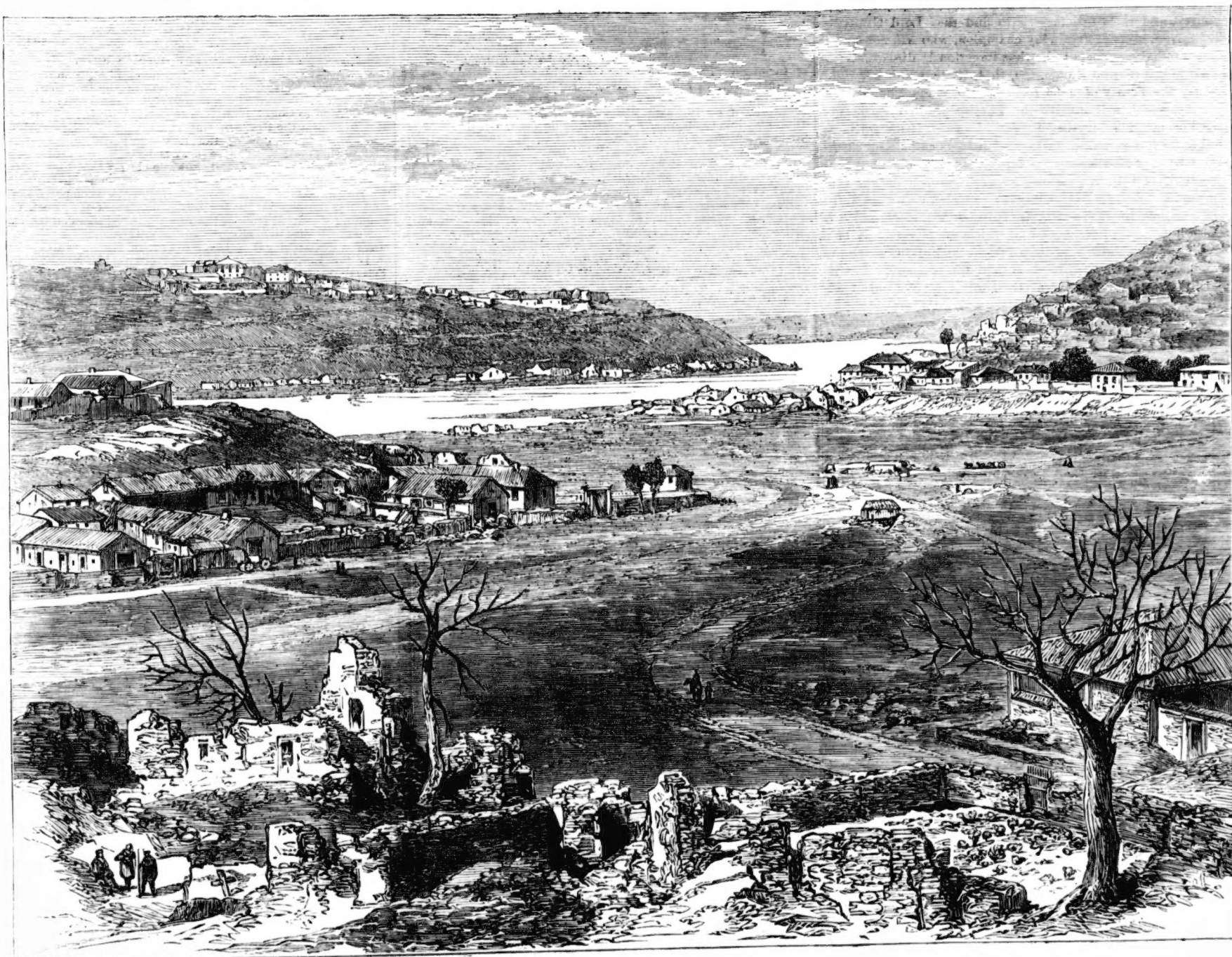
Now, in order rightly to appreciate the motives of Russia in preferring her present claim to set aside

(for that is what it amounts to) some of the provisions of the Treaty of 1856, we must beg our readers to bear with us whilst we briefly revert to the events which led to the conclusion of this treaty, which is now alleged, for the first time, to have failed in its object; and, indeed, in some points which are rather vaguely alluded to, is represented to have been flagrantly violated. It will not, however, be necessary for us to weary our readers by a recapitulation of the circumstances which ultimately impelled England, in conjunction with her three allies, to undertake one of the most stupendous sieges recorded in the history of any age or country. It will suffice for our present purpose to assume as proved the fact, of which the treaty is the evidence, that the possession by Russia of a first-class fortress on the shores of the Black Sea was held by the almost universal consent of Europe to be a standing menace to Turkey, and a source of possible danger to the peace of Europe, which ought to be removed. This view of the case, therefore, having been adopted and formally ratified by the contracting parties, nothing but the most cogent proof of an absolute breach of the stipulations or manifest injustice clearly affecting the complaining party, can be admitted as a reason for undoing a work which was the result of mature deliberation, and the price of which we may conscientiously affirm was paid for in some of the best blood of Europe.

One of the stipulations of the treaty of which the breach is now complained of by Russia, is that contained in art. 11,

by which "the Black Sea is neutralised; its waters and its ports, thrown open to the mercantile marine of every nation, are formally and in perpetuity interdicted to the flag of war of either of the Powers possessing its coasts (i. e., Russia and Turkey) or of any other Power," with certain exceptions, which are made the subject of a separate convention between Russia and Turkey in the form of two articles. By art. 1, "The high contracting parties mutually engage not to have in the Black Sea any other vessels of war than those of which the number, the force, and dimensions are hereinafter stipulated." By art. 2 "The high contracting parties reserve to themselves each to maintain in that sea six steam-vessels, of fifty metres in length at the time of flotation, of a tonnage of 800 tons at the maximum; and four light steam or sailing vessels, of a tonnage which shall not exceed 200 tons each." Our readers will not fail to observe that though in the former article mention is made of "the force" (by which we understand the armament) which is afterwards intended to be specified more precisely, yet in the latter, which particularises the number and dimensions of the vessels that may be admitted to the Black Sea, no reference is made to their equipment. This seems to be an omission, and by it means an unimportant one; for, although restricted as to tonnage, these vessels might carry the most formidable ordnance.

Russia now alleges that this eleventh article has been



SEBASTOPOL AS IT IS: THE HARBOUR, WITH FORTS CONSTANTINE AND MICHAEL IN THE DISTANCE.—(SEE PAGE 349.)

violated, and specific instances are quoted of such violation; but we think that when these are examined they will be found not to amount to so grave a charge; and we can hardly suppose that even Prince Gortschakoff himself seriously considers a yachting cruise of the Prince and Princess of Wales in the light of a deliberate intention on the part of England to break down the express stipulations of a treaty to which she herself was a party. But even admitting that vessels of war have really entered the Black Sea without previously obtaining permission from Russia as well as from the Porte (which is very doubtful), such an infringement of the letter of the treaty should certainly have formed the subject of an immediate remonstrance instead of being studiously ignored until the moment arrived for making it a pretext for casting discredit upon the treaty itself.

The notion of the treaty having been framed with the view of affording increased security to Russia from future invasion of her territory, instead of being, as it really was, in the nature of a penalty by which she was herself bound over to keep the peace, seems so preposterous that one might almost imagine Prince Gortschakoff was trying his hand at burlesque-writing rather than penning a solemn despatch, so far is he from stating the real intention when he talks about the "security which the neutrality of the Black Sea was to have given to Russia." Russia has nothing whatever to fear from Turkey, which certainly has not the power, even if she had the will, to be dangerous; whereas Turkey, both from past experience and present indications, may well apprehend encroachment on the part of Russia. And though the propriety of endeavouring to prop up by external aid an exhausted and decaying State may be open to question, that subject is not now under consideration; the real point in hand being whether an engagement entered into by several contracting Powers can be annulled by the mere *ipse dixit* of one of the parties to it: in other words, whether the public law of Europe is in future to rest on the agreements of the several Powers, or to be made and unmade as may happen to suit the convenience or caprice of any one among them.

The treaty itself, indeed, is evidence of what were the views of all the great Powers of Europe at the conclusion of the Crimean War; and nothing has occurred, so far as we are aware, in the interval which has since elapsed calling for the modification, much less the repudiation, of convictions thus deliberately and conscientiously expressed. But all this notwithstanding, we should be disposed to give Russia a patient hearing, if only she presented her appeal to have the matter reopened in a proper manner, instead of asserting a claim to set aside the terms imposed on her formerly, which she now regards as onerous, at her own discretion. It is this high-handed method of dealing with the solemn obligations she had contracted which has created an unpleasant sensation in this country, and it is satisfactory to find that Lord Granville has proved himself a worthy champion, who will not suffer international compacts to be thus imperiously discarded.

We would remind Russia, too, that, if we admit her right to have the Treaty of 1856 reconsidered, it must be so in its entirety, which will involve the inquiry whether *she* on her part has acted altogether in accordance with its spirit as well as its letter. Sebastopol, as our readers can see for themselves by our Engravings, is not quite incapable of reconstruction, and it is possible, in the case suggested, that Turkey would have something to say about Russian ships and arsenals in the Sea of Azof, the existence of which is somewhat darkly hinted at, and which would certainly be a set off against those fine ironclads of the Sultan, which are at once such a dreadful bugbear and temptation to Russia, as they lie quietly rusting at their moorings in front of the Seraglio.

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS into the National Exchequer from April 1 to Nov. 19 were £38,367,850, against £42,762,904 in the corresponding period last year. The total expenditure was £42,445,086, against £43,935,843 last year. The balance at the Bank of England on the 19th inst. was £1,915,066.

THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL IN HYDE PARK.—The large groups of sculpture are gradually being fixed in their places. Mr. McDowall's Europe, at the south-west corner, is in progress. Mr. Foley's group will follow, then Mr. Theed's, and lastly Mr. John Bell's America, which is now the least, but once the most advanced. Mr. Foley is still at work on the figure of the Prince Consort, which cannot be completed for many months.

OUR WAR POLICY.—At the Social Science Rooms, on Monday evening, Mr. Frederic Hill read a paper "On the policy of this country in regard to war." The heads of his address were—1st, an adequate provision for our own defence; 2ndly, our policy in cases of Continental wars, civil or otherwise, which are not purely defensive; 3rdly, our true policy in regard to any neighbouring country which becomes the object of an unwarrantable invasion. The first could only be maintained by a powerful fleet with a great naval reserve ever ready, and, in addition to a small standing army, a large land force of militia and volunteers, fully organised and appointed, and supported by an adequate supply of artillery. On the second point, he advocated the existence of a standing international court, which should be a court of conciliation rather than of arbitration. As to the third head, Mr. Hill was of opinion that if it were generally felt that in any case of national aggression the country singled out as a victim would not be left to fight alone, in Europe, at least, aggressive warfare would cease. In his remarks upon the present war, in which he strongly condemned France, the speaker said that a high military authority had told him that the German advance so far into France was as unwise in a strategic point of view as in other respects. Russia, which he (Mr. Hill) termed the aggressor of the East, as France had been in the West, was, notwithstanding its territorial extent, weak. General Sir George Balfour said the German system of short service was as expensive as any other, but their training was superior to that of any other army. It would be a fatal mistake of this country to rely upon its reserve forces. The chairman (Sir Charles Trevelyan) saw no distinction between munitions of war and ships of war. Wars arose generally from the strong passions of peoples. If it, for instance, depended upon the Emperor Alexander at present there would be no war; but the Russian people had always been aggressive, and were now pushing forward their Sovereign. He was very glad that Lord Granville had taken the tone which characterised his late despatch. He agreed in Mr. Hill's opinion as to reserved forces, and the great public concurrence upon the question made the establishment of his plan inevitable. Now that armies were numbered by hundreds of thousands, it was impossible to equip them from one centre. All our material was at Woolwich, the most exposed portion of the country. The localising of armies and material had been going on in Prussia from the time of Frederick I., and the effects of their system had been visible during the present year. While this was one cause of Prussian success, another cause was the superior public morality of Prussia, which was above that of every other country. There was no such thing as "jobbing" in the Prussian as in connection with the English and American Governments. There was a long discussion, and the customary thanks were given to the author of the paper and the chairman.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The victory of Orleans was known in Paris on the 16th, and caused universal rejoicings. All dissensions were forgotten, and the persons imprisoned on the 31st of last month had been set at liberty; confidence and unity pervaded all classes. Provisions were abundant, and horseflesh obtainable without restriction. The anxious desire for a sortie had yielded to a matured resolve that military action should be guided by the course of events.

The authorities at Tours maintain an absolute reserve respecting the movements on the Loire. The recent rumours of a decided general advance towards Paris are entirely premature. The Army of the Loire has had no engagements with the enemy since the battle of Coulmiers—nothing but skirmishes between outposts and foragers. General Aurelles de Paladine is making strategical movements in various directions, of which it is impossible to transmit any information whatever.

According to the *Independence Belge*, M. de Chandordy has been intrusted by the Tours Government with a mission to reopen negotiations for an armistice, and is also the bearer of proposals with regard to a basis for peace. The question of territorial cession is not to be raised. The reports of an armistice negotiation are not confirmed, but it is stated that M. Chandordy's mission was to arrange for the calling together of a National Assembly, even if an armistice could not be negotiated.

The Municipality of Lyons have ordered the removal of the equestrian statue of Napoleon I. from the Place Perrache.

ITALY.

The elections in Italy have resulted very generally in favour of the Government. It is now announced that the King will probably go to Rome about the end of the year.

The *Verita Cattolica* and *Armonia*, having published the Enciclica of Nov. 1, in which the Pope excommunicates those who ordered, advised, and executed the invasion of the Pontifical States, have been seized.

SPAIN.

The sittings of the Cortes have been suspended until after the return of the commission sent to Italy to present to the Duke d'Aosta the Crown of Spain. Tranquillity prevails in Madrid.

The *Iberia* lately published an article headed "The Duke of Aosta is a Spaniard," tracing his descent, in the twenty-second degree, to James I. (the Conqueror), of Aragon. It appears from this that the Royal houses of Italy and Spain are connected, not only through Princess Catharine of Austria (daughter of Philip II.), who married Charles Emmanuel, Duke of Savoy, but through that Duke himself, whose sixth lineal ancestor, Amadeo VII., married, in 1376, the Baroness of Berri, granddaughter of John II. of France, and so descended from Philip III. of France, and Isabella, daughter of the above-mentioned James I. of Aragon, whom Philip III. married in 1262. The *Iberia* obviously chose for notice a more remote affinity than was necessary, that it might not prove the new King of Spain a Bourbon or an Austrian.

GERMANY.

Baden, Hesse, and Wurtemberg have signed treaties of adhesion to the North German Confederacy. Bavaria is likely to follow, Prussia having abandoned her claim of having the direction of the Bavarian troops in peace as well as in war.

The Prussian Government has gained a great electoral victory in the province of Hanover. Of thirty-six members returned by it, only three are "Particularists," the majority are National-Liberal, and the rest Conservative.

The two Polish Bishops of Prussia have petitioned King William in behalf of the Pope, reminding him that the German Emperors always protected the Holy See.

RUSSIA.

A correspondent at St. Petersburg says the Russian Minister of War has issued new regulations relative to the recall of soldiers on furlough. The basis of these regulations is the creation of innumerable local centres, where the soldiers recalled under arms are being directed. Every town is to have a dépôt, to which every soldier on furlough will hasten to go at a given moment; and to be able to do so, requisitions of horses and carts will be made by authority among the peasants of the parish in which those soldiers are living. From these first centres they will be sent, at the State's expense, to the nearest railway station, and thence to their definitive destination. Owing to the net, already vastly extended, of the Russian railways, with such a system it will be easy henceforth to dispose in a few days of a very large contingent, whilst in time of peace the unlimited and temporary furloughs will be considerably augmented without any danger whatever.

CHINA.

Sixteen coolies have been beheaded for the Tien-Tsin massacre, the Chinese Government indemnifying their families; and twenty-three exiled. An indemnity of 500,000 taels is to be paid to the French and 10,000 taels to the Chinese Christians. M. Rochechouart expresses himself satisfied, but the Russians are not so. From Peking a telegram has been received at the Foreign Office, in which Mr. Wade states that he does not expect that a military force will be anywhere necessary in China.

An outrage was committed at Fatsan, near Canton, on the evening of Sept. 21. It appears that for months past the native Christians at Canton and Fatsan have been erecting a chapel: the work originated with them, and has throughout its course been unaided by foreigners. On the completion of the edifice it was determined to have an opening ceremony on a grand scale, and several Protestant missionaries and native converts were invited to attend. Fortunately, only one foreigner, the Rev. J. Chalmers, was able to be present, and to his early return to Canton he probably owes his life. He left Fatsan immediately the ceremony of opening the chapel had been performed, and refused to remain for some festivities appointed to be held in the evening. At about six p.m. the mob, which had often expressed its intention of destroying the building when finished, collected about the doors, and openly declared that improprieties were being committed within the chapel. The native assistant denied the charges as eloquently as circumstances would admit, and endeavoured to cool the growing excitement; with the usual success, however, for in an hour the building had been burst into, sacked, and burnt. The converts made good their escape, and no loss of life occurred, though several ugly wounds were received. The property was entirely Chinese, and no foreigner was injured, so that it is a matter in which the Consuls will have difficulty in taking action. Fatsan is noted for its opposition to the encroachment of missionaries, and the representative of the Wesleyan Mission at that place has for some time past found it expedient to dwell there more in spirit than in the flesh.

COCHIN-CHINA.

Advices from Cochin-China state that all Germans have been expelled from Saigon, which has been declared in a state of siege.

INDIA.

From Bombay we have news of a disastrous accident on the Madras Railway. About eighteen or twenty miles from Cuddapah the railway crosses the river Cheyiar, a considerable stream nearly a mile broad, which, on Oct. 21, was much swollen from heavy rains. As a train from Madras was crossing the bridge which carries the railway over this river, a portion of the bridge gave way, and the engine and several of the carriages were precipitated into the foaming torrent below. Among the missing are the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour, who were on their way to Secunderabad, where Mr. Seymour was proceeding to take up the chaplain's appointment; and Mr. Streenevassa Charloo, a valued

of the High Court, who was on his way to Cuddapah, to fulfil a professional engagement.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The news by the Cape mail is that the find of diamonds continues as plentiful as ever. The population in the diggers' camps had risen to 11,000. A magnificent diamond, weighing 88 1-16 carats, the largest yet found there, has been discovered by a Mr. Wheeler, who was offered for it on the spot £22,000, but he wanted £30,000, and is coming to England in the hope of getting that sum. British magistrates and mounted police were about to be appointed for the diggings by the Colonial Government.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

ANOTHER DESPATCH FROM PRINCE GORTSCHAKOFF.

The following despatch was communicated to our Government by Baron Brunnow on the 9th inst., and is referred to in the second paragraph of Lord Granville's despatch published by us last week:—

Tsarkeo Selo, Oct. 20, 1870.

M. le Baron.—In making the communication to the Principal Secretary of State of her Britannic Majesty prescribed to you by the orders of his Majesty the Emperor, you will be good enough to make its import and its object clearly understood.

When, at the commencement of the year 1866, conferences were talked of à *Trois*, for the purpose of preventing the war then imminent in Germany, by the assembly of a Congress, in discussing the basis of it with Earl Russell, you were able to point out to him the compensation and the guarantees of security which certain eventualities of a nature to modify the *status quo* existing in the East would render necessary to Russia.

This was recognised by Earl Russell with the utmost fairness. He did not deny that every alteration effected in the text and the spirit of the Treaty of 1856 must lead to the revision of that document. Although those eventualities have not been realised, Lord Granville will not deny that that treaty has suffered grave modifications in one of its essential parts.

What cannot but impress Russia, in those modifications, is not the factitious hostile tendency towards her of which they bear the stamp; it is not the consequences that may result to a great country from the establishment on her frontier of a small quasi-independent State; it is, above all, the facility with which, barely ten years after its conclusion, a solemn transaction, invested with a European guarantee, can be infringed in its letter and its spirit under the eyes of the very Powers which ought to be its guardians.

In presence of such a precedent, what value can Russia attach to the efficacy of this transaction, and to the guarantee of security that she believed she had found in the principle of the neutralisation of the Black Sea? The equilibrium established in the East by the Treaty of 1856 is therefore destroyed to the detriment of Russia. The resolution taken by our august master has no other object than to re-establish it.

Her Britannic Majesty's Government would never consent to leave the security of its coasts to the mercy of a transaction which is no longer respected. It is too just not to recognise that we have the same duties and the same rights.

But what we especially desire to establish is that this decision implies no change in the policy his Majesty the Emperor follows in the East.

You have several times already been able to enter into explanations with the Cabinet of London upon the general views the two Governments hold upon this important question. You have been able to point out a conformity of principles and of interests which we have noted with much satisfaction.

We have deduced therefrom that it is neither from England nor Russia that the dangers can come which could threaten the Ottoman Empire; that the two Cabinets have an equal desire to maintain its existence as long as possible, by the pacification and conciliation of the differences between the Porte and the Christian subjects of the Sultan, and that in case a decisive crisis should occur, notwithstanding these efforts, both are equally resolved to seek the solution, above all, in a general agreement of the great Powers of Europe.

We have not ceased to entertain these views. We believe that their complete analogy renders a serious understanding possible between her Britannic Majesty's Government and ours; we attach the utmost value to it as the best guarantee for preserving the peace and the equilibrium of Europe from the dangers which may result from the complications in the East.

By order of his Majesty the Emperor, your Excellency is authorised to reiterate the assurance of this to Lord Granville. We shall sincerely congratulate ourselves if the frankness of these explanations should contribute to it by removing all possibility of misunderstanding between her Britannic Majesty's Government and us.—I am, &c.,

GORTSCHAKOFF.

AUSTRIA AND THE RUSSIAN NOTE.

The note of the Austrian Government in reply to the Russian circular was dispatched on the evening of the 16th to St. Petersburg, and to the other Powers who signed the Treaty of 1856. It was sent off to Count Wimpffen at Berlin with the special injunction to inform the Prussian Government that this Government set great value upon knowing the view which the Cabinet of Berlin took of this matter. The request is brought forward in such a frank and loyal manner, and shows so clearly that Austria, recognising accomplished facts, means to take them as the basis for her future relations to Germany, that if Prussia be disposed she may find in it the thread for the establishment of that good understanding which, in spite of the repeated assurances on both sides, has been so long in coming.

As in the circular it is the Emperor of Russia who speaks, so it is the Emperor of Austria who orders his Minister in St. Petersburg to make known his views. They are based on art. 14 of the Treaty of 1856, which is quoted, and which says that his Majesty the Emperor of Russia and his Majesty the Sultan, having concluded a treaty by which they determine the number and size of the vessels of war which they deem necessary for the security of their respective coasts, this separate treaty is embodied in an annex as an integral part of the general treaty, none of the stipulations of which can be annulled or modified except by the consent of the other contracting parties. The last portion of this art. 14, by expressly embodying a provision which is understood as applicable to all treaties, gives a special sanction to it. It must be therefore considered as absolutely obligatory, even if one or another of the contracting parties could give good reasons to induce the others to consent to the modification or abrogation of one or another of its stipulations. If, therefore, Austria does not stop at these remarks, which embody all her views on this subject, and if she enters into the discussion of the arguments brought forward in the circular, this is done out of deference to the person of his Majesty the Emperor of Russia.

The circular complains of the inequality and iniquity of the stipulation which allows the Sultan the possibility of increasing according to his good pleasure his naval power while it prevents Russia from doing so. Austria, who is only one of the contracting parties, cannot arrogate to itself singly the right to examine the justice of this complaint; but if it were well founded, it might have been a case for not signing the treaty, or else for bringing it before the other contracting Powers and asking them to modify or abrogate the obnoxious stipulations; but it can never be a justification for a one-sided resolution on the subject. This view can only be confirmed by the reason which is brought forward as prompting this resolution, and which, if recognised as a maxim, would subvert all treaties. It would increase the facility of abrogating treaties, but is scarcely calculated to promote their solidity. This refers to the passage of the circular which says that the Treaty of March 30, 1856, has not escaped those modifications (*dérégations*) to which most of the European transactions have been subject, and in face of which it would be difficult to maintain that written right, based on the respect of treaties which form the foundation of the public right in the relations of the different States towards each other, possesses the same moral sanction as it might have had at other times.

As for the infractions of the Treaty of 1856 which are brought forward, there are the changes in Moldavia and Wallachia, which were brought about by revolution, and afterwards sanctioned by the Powers, and which, contrary to the letter and spirit of this treaty, have led to the union of those two countries and to the establishment of a foreign Prince. There is one circumstance in this case which ought not to be lost sight of—namely, that the two Principalities did not sign the Treaty of 1856, but that they were under the Suzerainty of Turkey. Was it Turkey who pre-

posed or brought about these changes? Was it not, on the contrary, Turkey who had every ground to oppose, and who did oppose them, as contrary to her interests?

As for the infraction of the neutrality of the Black Sea by the appearance there of vessels of war, it is not clearly understood what is meant by it, unless it refers to those occasions when vessels of war, previously disarmed, came in to escort Princes on their journey, an infraction which may surely be considered as very inoffensive. If Russia did not think so, she ought to have made her remonstrances at the time. The Government of his Majesty could not, therefore, but learn with painful regret the decision which the circular of Count Gortschakoff announces, and by which Russia assumes a great responsibility. It cannot but express its profound surprise at it, and call the attention of the Russian Government to the consequences of a proceeding which is an attack on a treaty sanctioned by all the great Powers of Europe, and which is made, moreover, at a moment when Europe wants more than ever those guarantees which the faith of treaties gives for her repose and for her future.

CONTINENTAL OPINION.

According to advices from Constantinople received at Vienna, the Porte has appealed to the signatories of the Treaty of 1856 to support her against the proposed breach of the treaty by Russia. On Sunday the Russian and English Ambassadors had interviews with the Sultan. A council of war was afterwards held by the Ministers.

In Vienna pacific ideas still seem to prevail. The *New Free Press*, as we learn by one of our special telegrams, says that the campaign will be carried on by the pen, not by the sword. The *Press* says that Russia is willing to treat with England, and that peace will probably be maintained.

A correspondent at St. Petersburg, writing on the 17th inst., says that nearly all Russians approve of Prince Gortschakoff's circular without reserve, and dwell upon the wisdom and moderation of its statements. Business men, however, view it with somewhat different eyes, and some go so far as to call it unwise and ill-timed. The St. Petersburg press speaks in the most favourable terms of the step taken by the Government. The *Golos* hopes foreign Powers will also applaud that step, but says that, if they do not, Russia will defend with arms her right to act within her own boundaries with perfect independence. The Russian Post Office has quadrupled the postage for Russian journals sent to Turkey and Greece. These journals having for years kept up an anti-Turkish agitation among the Slavonian subjects of the Sultan, the Post-Office action is regarded as indicating an intention to prevent an outbreak at this critical juncture. The Russians seem to be convinced that after this measure there can be no doubt as to the pacific intentions of their Government.

It is asserted in St. Petersburg that Prince Gortschakoff's reply to the English and Austrian Governments (which was expected to reach London on Wednesday) is couched in very conciliatory terms, and endeavours to explain the pacific bearing of his previous declaration. Russia desires a general peace and the repose of the East, which can only be secured by a common understanding; and, far from wishing to act separately, would very willingly assist at such an understanding with the other Powers.

THE WAR.

MOVEMENTS OF THE GERMAN ARMIES.

A TOURS telegram states that Prince Frederick Charles was at Pithiviers on Monday. If he was there in person his advanced corps must already have entered into the fullest communication with Von der Tann. Pithiviers is twenty-three miles from Orleans, and only fifteen from Toury. Montargis, thirty-eight miles east of Orleans, was occupied by his troops without striking a blow, the French agreeing to evacuate the place. The combined armies of Prince Frederick Charles and the Duke of Mecklenburg, with the recent reinforcements, are now estimated at 150,000, and are still receiving reinforcements. Prussians have arrived at Verneuil, half way between Chartres and L'Aigle, and are reported to have occupied Nogent le Retrou and La Loupe. A letter in the *Echo du Nord* says General Manteuffel was on Tuesday at Laon, where he is establishing an entrenched camp, which will have the double effect of enabling flying columns to scour the surrounding country and of covering a German retreat in case the siege of Paris should be raised. Three Prussian columns, each 4000 strong, were moving from Lure and Ramonchamp to Vesoul on the 18th. The Prussian troops at Montbelliard, Giromagny, and Héricourt left for Lure on the 17th by forced marches. Communication between Auxonne and Besançon was restored on the 16th. Intelligence received at Lyons confirms the belief that General von Werder has at present relinquished his movement towards Lyons. General von Werder's Uhlans stationed at Nuits have pushed reconnaissances to the frontiers of the Beaune district. The Prussians make no forward movement in the Valley of the Ouche. The Valley of the Ognon is quite free. It is believed that few Prussians now occupy Dijon. It appears that the advanced columns of General von Werder's army are annexed to the left wing of the army of Prince Frederick Charles. All the movements of the Germans in the Doubs and on the Ognon are supposed to indicate great haste to advance to the support of the armies in the Loire district. General Werder is believed to have relinquished his intention of marching on Lyons.

THE BATTLE NEAR ORLEANS.

German accounts of the engagement near Orleans, on the 9th, are at length coming to hand. The force with which Von der Tann marched out of Orleans on the evening of the 8th was 18,000 strong, and with it he advanced against the French under D'Aurelle, at Coulmiers. D'Aurelle had with him nine brigades of the Line, many Mobiles, seven cavalry regiments, and 120 field-guns; altogether he may have had 70,000 or 80,000 men. The French were found to be in good hands, and better trained and disciplined than M'Mahon's army was. Their outpost service was well performed, and they had thrown out skirmishers and lateral columns to guard against surprise. The left wing of the French was attacked by the right wing of the Bavarians, under General Orff, and thrown back upon the centre in great disorder. On the German left things did not go so well, still the Bavarians, though in a considerable minority, repulsed seven successive attempts to storm their position. The fight lasted ten hours, from 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. Von der Tann then drew back his regiments, and effected a retreat to Toury without molestation from the enemy; indeed, without the least contact with him. On the following day, the 10th, he was also unmolested. The official German report says that the 1000 German prisoners mentioned in the French report are sick and wounded left at Orleans.

It is reported that among the prisoners made at Coulmiers were a nephew of General von der Tann, and M. de Perceval, the Prussian Governor of Orleans, a descendant of a French Protestant family. General von der Tann's carriage was taken, and his body servant with it.

THE FRENCH ARMY OF THE LOIRE.

Letters from the French Army of the Loire say that the victory on the 9th over Von der Tann has altogether altered the morale of the troops. On that day they were cured of one of the worst fits of demoralisation an army ever laboured under. They have now opened their eyes with surprise to the fact that the Germans can be beaten; that their artillery can be silenced by French artillery; and that they can even be attacked at the point of the bayonet with success. The Mobiles were displaying admirable coolness and daring. A correspondent of the *Daily News*, who has visited the Army of the Loire at Orleans, states that its headquarters were, on the 19th, about five miles in front of that city, which has been powerfully strengthened on its northern side by earthworks. He also heard of lines of

intrenchments higher up. General d'Aurelle is replaced in the command of the Army of the Loire by General de Pallière, and is himself appointed Commander-in-Chief of all the armies outside Paris. A TOURS letter makes the following statement respecting the strength of the Army of the Loire:—"It would seem that near Le Mans there are not fewer than 25,000 men; at Vendôme, more than 35,000; at Bourges, 30,000; and between Orleans and Toury, 150,000—making altogether more than 200,000 destined to march to the relief of Paris, and at present able to meet Von der Tann and Prince Frederick Charles. This does not include 50,000 encamped in and near Nevers, and about 40,000 that are between Autun and Chagny. Of these troops not fewer than 150,000 belong to the Line, and most of them are old soldiers who have served before, and are now called out again. The present state of the country prevents General de Pallière moving the immense artillery at his disposal; but, should the rain be succeeded by frost, he will be able to make a forward movement at once. His guns are heavier than those of the enemy, and require more horses to transport them; but, in order to take advantage of an improvement in the weather, he has been furnished with 150 light guns, which can be taken to pieces and carried upon horses or mules when required, has ten batteries of mitrailleuses, each of ten pieces, and nearly 15,000 well-mounted cavalry."

THE GARIBALDIANS.

A dashing exploit has been performed by Ricciotti Garibaldi at Châtillon. From the details which have been received at Tours, it appears that the Garibaldian force was composed of 400 men from various companies, and that they attacked Châtillon at six o'clock in the morning. The place was occupied by 750 Germans, who were expecting reinforcements 1400 strong that very day. The Germans were repulsed, leaving 120 killed, among whom were two Colonels and one Major, as well as 167 prisoners, ten of whom were officers; sixty-two horses and four ammunition-waggons were also captured. The losses on the French side were four killed and twelve wounded.

A correspondent with Garibaldi's forces, writing from Autun, says that as soon as it became known that the headquarters were to be established in the town the clergy endeavoured to persuade the people that a Prussian invasion would be preferable to the occupation of the place by the Garibaldians. One of the clergy, a village Curé, had been tried by court-martial and condemned to death for inciting his parishioners to rebel against the military authorities. The Minister of War pardoned the Curé; but the occurrence had exasperated the clergy, and the Bishop of Autun was incessantly complaining. The Garibaldians had increased the ill-feeling by the unceremonious manner in which they turned the convents and churches into barracks. Even in the cathedral they were to be seen making themselves quite at home, and with their fires lighted for the evening soup at the entrance of the building.

MISCELLANEOUS WAR NEWS.

The territorial military commands held by Generals Bourbaki, Fiéreck, and Michel are suppressed, and the troops in the northern district are placed under the orders of General Faure. Bourbaki has been appointed to the command of the 18th Corps of the Army of the Loire.

The German troops which were investing Mézières and Montmédy have, it is reported, suddenly disappeared from before those places, and are withdrawing to the interior of France, probably to Paris, to strengthen the forces investing that capital.

According to a telegram from Rouen, the Germans attacked Evreux on Saturday, but retired, owing to the vigorous resistance they met with from the National Guard. A Ministerial despatch, dated Evreux, the 22nd inst., announces that at Evreux and in the vicinity the National Guard maintains its positions, supported by the rural population, who greatly harass the Prussians. The French troops have reassumed the offensive towards Vernon, and have captured an immense Prussian convoy, which was proceeding from Pacy and Vernon to Mantes. The Prussians guarding the convoy, numbering 1500, fled after a slight engagement. The valley of the Eure is free from the enemy.

Letters from Lille announce that since the capitulation of Metz about 300 soldiers and twenty officers, who managed to escape from Metz in disguise, have been daily passing through Lille. Lille is well provisioned, and has several manufactories of guns and steel mitrailleuses, as well as a strong garrison.

In the Haute Saône the Germans are advancing by way of Vesoul, Granville, Frétingy, Bonboillon, and Pesmes. They carry boats with them for crossing the rivers. The French have destroyed the bridge at Pontallier.

It is stated in a telegram from Versailles that foreigners, including even diplomatists, are no longer allowed to leave Paris. Foreign subjects who had received permission from the German authorities to pass through the lines have been forbidden to do so by the French Government.

The Prussian Government, by its recognised organs, is leading the public to expect the approaching fall of Paris as a result of military operations, and says that an armistice *pur et simple* is not for a moment to be thought of. It goes so far as to affirm that the final fulfilment of Count Moltke's plans, both before Paris and on the Loire, and in the north, may shortly be looked forward to. A Berlin telegram says that 300 waggons have been sent to Paris to be used in victualling that city in case of its surrender, and 200 more are to follow shortly.

The Strasbourg fortifications have been repaired, and are now placed in a complete state of defence.

EMIGRATION.—The Rev. A. Styleman Herring, Incumbent of St. Paul's, Clerkenwell, has just returned to England, after a visit to Canada; and his report of the present position of immigrants is encouraging. He says about 40,000 have settled in the Dominion since April of last year; that the majority are doing well, some very well, and others have undoubtedly failed, either through their own misconduct or unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Herring, having travelled 6000 miles in all parts of Canada, and visited all classes, comes to the conclusion that England and Canada are alike benefited by emigration.

THE SURRENDER OF METZ.—Field Marshal Sir J. Burgoyne declares that to accuse a man like Bazaine (with whom he served in the Crimea) of treason is most incomprehensible, and can only excite indignation. What were the operations that led to the army which Bazaine commanded not having retired in time to join the other corps still in the field, Sir John is not now prepared to discuss. But if Bazaine could not break through the forces opposed to him in the early days of his movement on Metz, he would have less chance of succeeding each day as it passed, as the positions round the place, naturally very strong, were capable of being greatly improved by field-works, which would be gradually progressing towards perfection; and while this was a continued state of improvement on the side of the blockading force, his own troops were in as constant a state of deterioration by the breaking up of his cavalry, field artillery, and army transport. Thus isolated as he was, by a very great distance from any friendly support, with an army utterly unprovided with every necessary means for a campaign, and his provisions exhausted, he had really no alternative left but to surrender.

SIR WILLIAM DENISON ON COLONISATION.—Sir William Denison read a paper on Monday night, on the subject of colonisation, before the Colonial Society, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, in which he advocated a revival of the ancient system of colonisation. The States of Greece, he said, when their population became too dense, sent the surplus out in sections of the whole community, representing every class, to found new homes; while the modern colonists went out without selection, and, as a general rule, at their own cost and pleasure. At present the middle and upper middle classes in England had the greatest difficulty in finding suitable employment for their sons, and, indeed, he might add daughters, who now entered into competition with the sons. From careful calculations he had made he found that the channels of employment for carefully-cultured young men did not in this country exceed one seventh of the demand; while the population of this country doubled itself in fifty-six years, and its capital was quadrupled in the same period. Sir William said that his plan to relieve this double plethora was to send out colonists at the expense of the Government to places which had previously been plotted and marked out for them. He would have those colonies regularly organised in their various classes, and thus clearly distinguishable from the present promiscuous system of emigration. He would have the home Government and the colonies co-operate in carrying out his scheme. The colony should give the land, and the home Government should sell it on easy terms to the emigrants.

THE POLICY OF RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 14.

ALTHOUGH, as has been frequently mentioned in my previous letters, a move of Russia in the Eastern question has long been expected here, the Government surrounds its proceedings with such secrecy that to most people Prince Gortschakoff's circular was a surprise. Indeed, during the last few weeks there had been a very unusual silence in official circles and in the press about Eastern affairs; and this, coupled with the civilities lavished upon Rustem Bey, the new Turkish Ambassador, led many to believe that the Government had determined to drop the Eastern question altogether for the present. It now appears that this was only the calm which precedes the storm. But there seems to be little doubt that the circular was the fruit of a sudden resolution of the Government, induced, as some suppose, by the desire of Count Bismarck to divert the attention of Europe from France. It is believed that Russia and Prussia arranged before the war broke out to help each other in certain contingencies; though there were no promises on either side, and it was, of course, understood that every service rendered by one Power should be returned by a *quid pro quo* from the other. Russia's "benevolent neutrality," by which she held Austria and Denmark in check and prevented an effective peace coalition of the neutral Powers, was adopted in the expectation of favours to come; and Prussia, finding that public opinion in Europe is turning more and more against her, and that the neutrals are daily growing more pressing in their representations for peace, has, it is thought, now taken the opportunity of at the same time giving Russia a lift and relieving herself of an embarrassing position. If the result is a war, England and Austria will be too busy in the East to interfere with Prussia's conquests in France; if merely a diplomatic protest, it is believed that such distrust and irritation will arise among the neutral Powers that all danger of a peace coalition will be removed. The general belief here is that England will adopt the latter alternative; but Russia is quite prepared for the former.

The Russian press has as yet been remarkably silent (probably by order) about the Government circular; but it has adopted a very conciliatory tone towards the Poles, and even the Germans. The *Exchange Gazette* openly declares that the unification of Germany must, as a "historical necessity," be followed by a union of all the Slavonic races. The chief difficulty to this union, it says, is the antagonism between the Russians and the Poles. "Whence arose this antagonism? From the struggle between the two nations for the predominance in Slavonia."

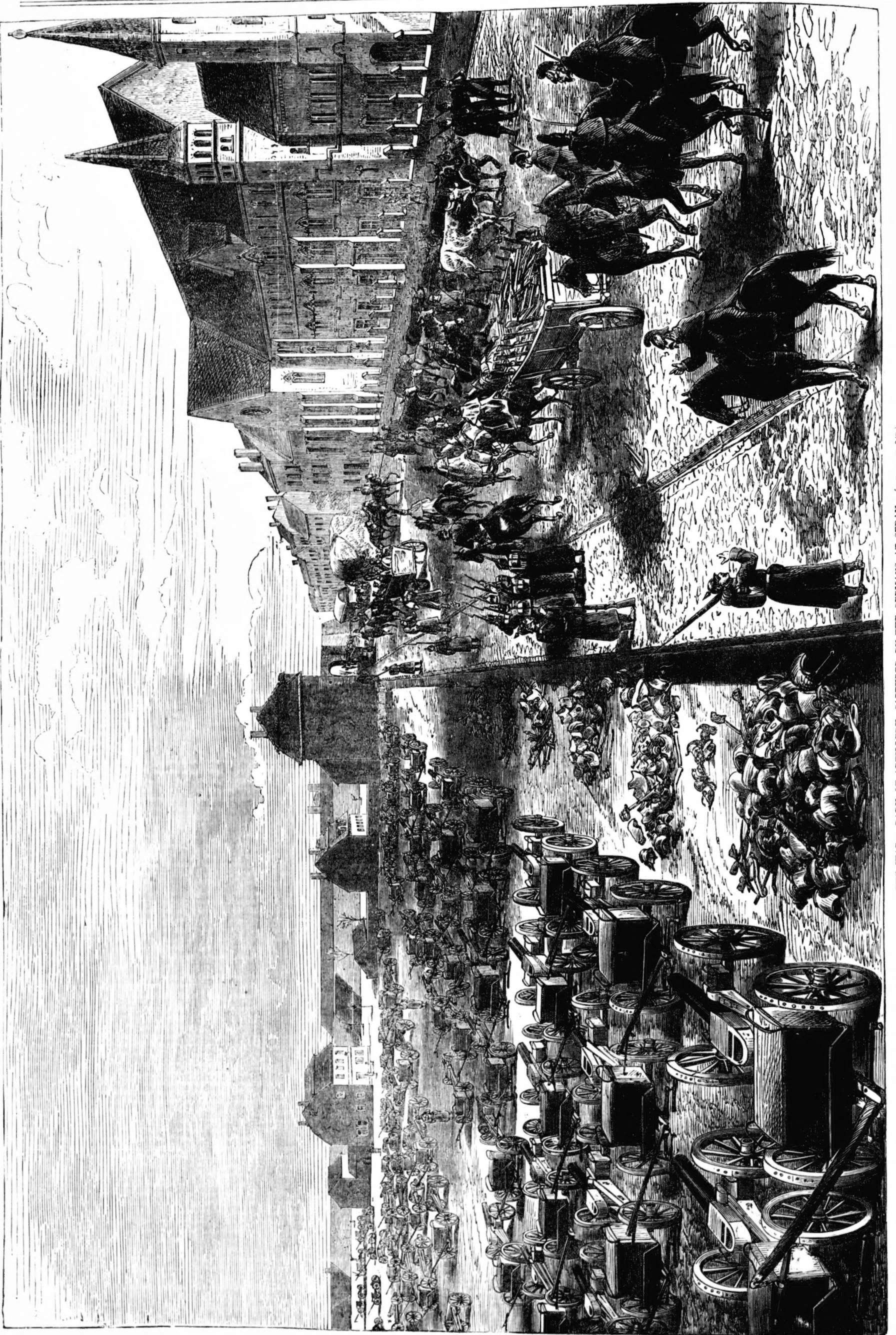
This struggle is now over. Poland is weak and divided; Russia strong and united. Can the Poles still hate us because they have made a mistake? . . . Let the nation which is the most powerful be now given the lead. . . . There are no Alps, Pyrenees, or Vosges between Russia and Poland; the two nations must be united, and between them effect the unification of the Slavonic race." As to the manner in which this unification is to be effected opinions are divided. One party, with the Grand Duke Constantine at its head, is in favour of a confederation, leaving to each nationality the free enjoyment of its particular institutions and language; the other, under the Czarevitch, which is represented in the press by the *Golos* and *Moscow Gazette*, would make the union of the other Slavonic races to Russia conditional on their adopting the Russian language and laws. As to Germany, the number of its supporters in the press has of late considerably increased. Perhaps the most important of the converts to a German alliance is M. Korsch, editor of the Russian *St. Petersburg Gazette*, and formerly a professor in the University of Moscow, where he still possesses enormous influence. M. Korsch is one of the most eminent of the Russian Liberals, and his talents and learning have made him a sort of leader in enlightened Russian society. He frankly admits his sympathy for France, but he considers that the French and the other Latin races are now on the decline, and that it is impossible for a young and vigorous nation like Russia to unite herself with races in a state of decrepitude. On this subject he expresses his entire agreement with a pamphlet by M. Stronin, entitled "France or Germany?" which has made some noise here. M. Stronin holds that the Latin races now only live in the past, and that the future belongs to Germany; an alliance between Russia and Germany is therefore inevitable; but the latter Power, "in order to spare Russian susceptibilities," ought to give up to Russia the whole right bank of the Niemen as far as its mouth, and thus prove that Germany has no designs upon the Baltic provinces. Whether Bismarck would consent to this is more than doubtful; but, unless he does, it is certain that, whatever may be the relations between the Prussian and Russian Governments, there will always be a strong distrust of Prussia among the Russian people. Every one here is convinced that Germany aims at becoming a great naval Power. To do this it will not be sufficient to obtain half the French fleet or buy ironclads in America; Germany must have sailors, and she can only get them among a coast population. At present her coast population is barely large enough to enable her to maintain the position of a naval Power of the third class; she will therefore, it is thought, strive to obtain either Holland or the Baltic provinces. But the conquest of Holland would be surrounded by tremendous difficulties; it would entail not only a war with England and her allies, but the subjection of a people which has always been peculiarly stubborn in defending its independence. The Baltic provinces, on the other hand, are inhabited by a population which would gladly welcome annexation to Germany; Russia, in a war for their possession, would be without an ally; and the result of their acquisition by Prussia would be to make her mistress of the Baltic and double the number of her sailors. Moreover, public opinion, to which both Prussia and Russia are so sensitive, would look upon a war for Holland as a war of aggression, while it would approve a war for the Baltic provinces as a crusade on the part of Germany to relieve her countrymen from Russian oppression and reunite them to the Fatherland.—*Correspondent of Pall Mall Gazette.*

RETURN OF THE FLYING SQUADRON.

THE flying squadron, after a lengthened cruise, anchored in Plymouth Sound on the 15th inst. The squadron consists of the *Liverpool*, 30, screw-frigate, Captain John Ommanney Hopkins, flagship of Rear-Admiral Hornby; the *Satellite*, 17, screw-corvette, Captain W. H. Edge; the *Endymion*, 21, screw-frigate, Captain E. Lacy; the *Phoebe*, 30, screw-frigate, Captain Bythesse; the *Pearl*, 17, screw-corvette, Captain J. F. Ross; and the *Lifey*, 30, screw-frigate, Captain R. Gibson.

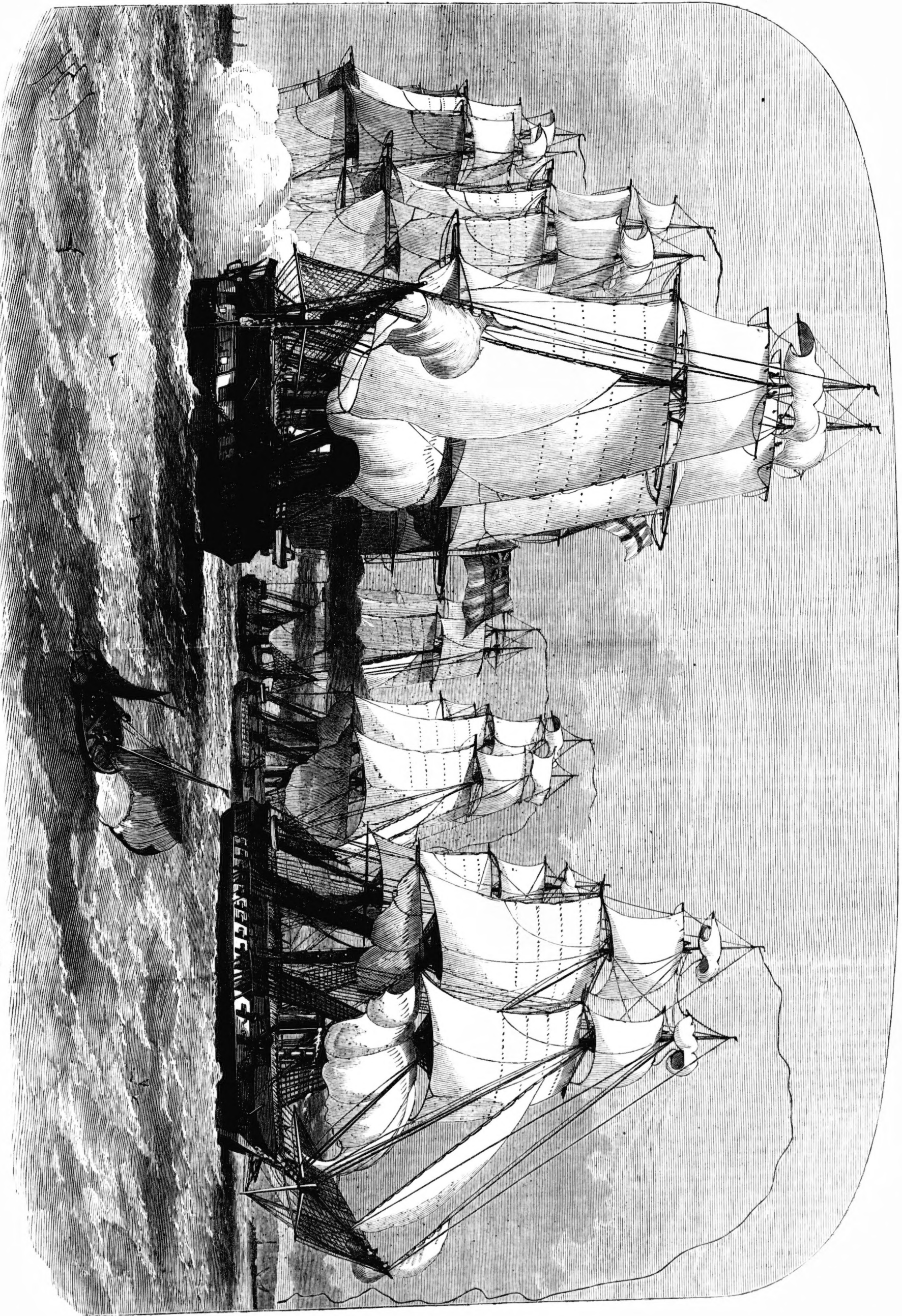
The flying squadron has been remarkably healthy throughout its voyage. This is attributed in a great measure to the perfect system of ventilation employed on board the vessels. The *Liverpool*, *Lifey*, *Phoebe*, and *Satellite* were next day inspected by the commander-in-chief at Plymouth, Admiral Sir H. J. Codrington, K.C.B., preparatory to moving from the Sound into Hamoaze, to be paid off. The *Endymion* and *Pearl* were to proceed to Portsmouth when ready. The flying squadron left Valparaiso on Aug. 28, having been extra provisioned and coaled there, where it first heard of the outbreak of the war. Passed Juan Fernandez on the 31st, and rounded Cape Horn on Sept. 13, having reached 57.41 south, 69.25 west. Experienced heavy weather on that coast, but saw no ice. The *Satellite* sprang her rudder head badly, and the *Phoebe* had six of her maindeck ports washed in, and parted company from the squadron for two days. On Sept. 29 she spoke some outward-bound ships, and from them she first learnt the French defeats, and arrived at Bahia on Oct. 6. On that day Mayedaa, a Japanese youth, brought from Yokohama as a naval cadet in the *Liverpool*, performed the hari-kari in the ward-room. He had been desponding since leaving Valparaiso. The body was buried in the English cemetery at Bahia. The squadron left Bahia on Oct. 9. It was intended to touch at Fayal, but the weather proved unfavourable.

THE REPORT that M. Schneider's works at Creuzot had been sold to an American company is contradicted.



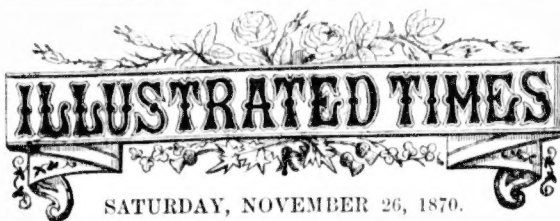
THE WAR: PARK OF ARTILLERY, CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS AT SEDAN.—(SEE PAGE 349.)

PEARL. ENDYMION. LIVERPOOL (FLAGSHIP), SALTING. THE FLYING SQUADRON ENTERING PLYMOUTH SOUND. LIPPEY. PRINCE.



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SECTARIAN BUMBLEDOM.

THE London elections for the first School Board are imminent. The case is one of such gravity that, after a second look round upon the addresses and the apparent policy of most of the candidates, we feel bound, unwillingly, to revise our decision not to descend into the mêlée. Accordingly, we venture to ask for a little earnest attention to what is now actually going forward, and then to the question of principle.

It is a small matter that many of the addresses of the candidates—for places on School Boards!—are written in vile, and sometimes grossly ignorant and unintelligible, English—a small matter, we say, by the side of the fact that they nearly all of them use language for its ancient purpose of *concealing* the intention, and that local influences of various kinds are being brought to bear, in every direction, in support of candidates who are sectaries with masks on. It will be observed that nearly all of the candidates talk of being in favour of religious freedom, and yet, in Marylebone, the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke and the Rev. E. A. Abbott, of the City of London School—gentlemen of the highest culture and much practical wisdom—have withdrawn from the shameful muddle with a protest against the sectarian spirit in which it was sought to work the Act. At Lambeth, Mr. Shaen, one of the candidates, published an excellent address, rightly insisting that if the principle of concurrent endowment is in any way admitted we must logically bind ourselves to pay for the teaching of what he calls "Papist" in Ireland. He opens his address in words to this effect:—"The electors will have observed"—we fear he greatly over-rates the perspicacity of too many of them—"that the other candidates for the school board for this borough studiously beat about the bush upon the point of religious teaching, so that there would appear to be nothing to choose between them. In this particular," Mr. Shaen proceeds in effect to say, "I shall myself be perfectly plain. I say, then, that I am opposed to the giving in any rate-supported school of one sentence of religious teaching to which any parent could object." Now, it might not be possible to carry out this programme absolutely; but what we desire to make plain is that it is the only fair one. Let us go, then, once more, to the question of principle.

Many—must we say nearly all?—the Dissenters are showing in this contest that while for many decades they have professed to be fighting for religious freedom, they have, in fact, been fighting for dignity and power. But let us recall the position they were always understood to take upon, say, the church-rate question; the position they did take in ten thousand times ten thousand published writings. The collector came to Mr. Broadbrim or Mr. Barnchapel and demanded church rates. No, said the citizen, I object to what is taught in your Church; you cannot fairly make me help to pay for the teaching; and I owe it to my conscience to refuse the money. Then came a distress upon the recusant's goods, in the name of the State. Now, in principle, that was exactly the same thing as when a Roman Emperor threw a Christian to the lions because he would not offer incense to Jupiter, or as when a Stuart put a Covenanter into "ye torture called y^e booties," or as when Elizabeth sent a Roman Catholic to prison. A child can see this; and Dissenters have been loud enough in proclaiming it—while it suited their purpose. We now find them in immense numbers taking up this position:—"There are certain religious doctrines which we have a right to teach by compulsion; that is, for the teaching of which we have a right to make all our fellow-citizens pay."

We seriously assure our readers that amid all the political and other changes we have witnessed during our lifetime, we have seen nothing which has gone so near to making us despair of human progress as the defection of the Dissenters upon the education question.

The majority of the electors are deceived by the specious rant of the different candidates about "religious freedom" and "liberty of conscience." Now, the proper answer to all this is, *Thank you for nothing!* The Act provides for liberty of conscience in the sense that a parent may withdraw a child from any religious teaching of which he disapproves. We may well believe that, considering the poverty and more or less dependent position of most of the parents and the inconvenience of working the conscience clause, it will be a dead letter, except in the extreme cases of Jews and Roman Catholics, to say nothing of the excessive unpleasantness of letting the children so early into the facts of the case. But still there is the conscience clause—a child may be withdrawn from sectarian teaching by its parents—at the cost of being looked at askance and having the sectarian bumbledom of the board about their ears. The worst is to come.

It will be observed that most of the candidates use such language as this:—"While earnestly in favour of religious

freedom, I will give my zealous support to a free and open Bible and the unsectarian teaching of its truths." These words are commonly used in the addresses, and, little as the electors suspect it, here and nowhere else is the snake in the grass. Except that it is our duty to fear God and love our neighbours, there is not one of the "truths"—i.e., doctrines—of the Bible, which has not been the subject of a "sectarian" difference. The Trinity, the Atonement, the eternity of punishment, the terms of admission into the Church (or, in other words, what makes a Christian), the precise Nature and Work of the Founder of Christianity—upon every one of these points differences of opinion as high as heaven and as deep as the pit have divided and still divide nominal Christians; to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands of good citizens who, though they cordially receive Christianity as love to God and love to man, question the authority of the Scriptures. Only those who have made theology a study can fully know how utterly impossible it would be for even the most subtle and scholarly man to teach the Christian *doctrines* in an "unsectarian" way. You cannot utter one bare sentence—not one—upon, say the person and work of the Founder of Christianity, without running against a "sectarian" difference. What is to prevent a teacher, who nevertheless disowns "sectarianism," quoting in his comments upon the Bible, if he makes any, Dr. Watts's verse:—

There is a dreadful hell,
And everlasting pains,
Where sinners must with devils dwell,
In darkness, fire, and chains.

Now, thousands of Broad Church, Unitarian, and Universalist Christians would rather their children should die the death than be taught that verse. True it is that, in practice, difficulties of this kind may not often arise. But what means this plea—a plea which we are stung with shame to see alleged, though in a delicate way, in the address of Miss Davies to the electors of Greenwich? It means just this—that the majority of the parents will be so ignorant, or so apathetic, or so hard-run by semi-starvation, that they will let you teach the children what you please. A right noble, a right honest, a right Christian plea!

But there is the conscience clause. True, and that provides for the children; but how about the rates? While the sectarian Bumbles are deciding at the School Board for rate-supported schools that their own peculiar doctrines, which they pleasantly term "unsectarian truths" (of course, *my* "truths" are never "sectarian," it is *you* who are the sectary), shall be taught to the children, some ratepayer, who detests and disbelieves in his conscience the so-called "unsectarian truths" of the Bumbles, is to pay so much in the pound to provide for the teaching of them.

We need not push the matter one step further. This is a church rate over again, and persecution, of however mild a character—as truly persecution as putting a torch to a man's body.

The practical outcome of all this is—Vote for no candidate who declines to answer with a plain "Yes" the question, Will you use your influence to prevent the giving at rate-supported schools of any religious instruction whatever, except the duty of love to God and love to man, leaving what slip-slop talkers call the "unsectarian truths" to parents and ministers of religion? The work wrought by any candidate who will not boldly answer this question in the affirmative must of necessity be a bad, a sectarian, a persecuting work. Any true Christian should be the first to denounce it; and, as surely as there is justice in Heaven, God will judge it.

Even the formula we have used in the question is not absolutely exhaustive of the bare citizen-justice of the case; but, as we pointed out last week, it comes so close to being so that those citizens whom it would not include could, without hurt of conscience, sink the difficulty.

The subject of the disgraceful ignorance of the Act exhibited by some of the most blatant of the candidates may safely be deferred.

Since the above was in type some striking indications of the extent to which sectarian feeling is at work have arisen. Miss Garrett, who had publicly announced that her "platform" for religious teaching was contained in the Lord's Prayer, has found it necessary to write to our contemporaries to assert that she is neither a Roman Catholic, a Unitarian, nor a Deist, but a member of the Church of England. The inference is irresistible—if absolutely unsectarian teaching was the object of the electors, why the clamour which made this letter necessary? Besides this, in one case a gross sectarian forgery has been alleged, and the following is an extract from a signed letter, just published:—

Last Friday I was summoned to a meeting of the Auxiliary of the London City Mission. I went. I found about fifteen missionaries present, who were being "informed," chiefly by two Scotch gentlemen, as to the proper persons to be elected on the school board. This "information" was given that they might "inform" others. *They were not to canvass (!), but canvassing cards were put into their hands with the name of a Scotch gentleman, in large type, and six elect brethren in more modest type, printed on them.* I ventured to suggest that the missionaries of the society were really paid by many persons of a great variety of opinion, and that they might not approve of their agents being made the means of giving "information" as to who were fit persons to sit on a school board. I was in a minority of one.

In a minority of one! We honour the writer of this letter, and only fear that the ILLUSTRATED TIMES will be in the same position.

PROFESSOR JULIUS THATER, the celebrated engraver, died at Munich on the 15th inst.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, with the Princesses Louise and Beatrice and Prince Leopold, arrived safely at Windsor Castle, from Balmoral, shortly before nine o'clock on Thursday morning.

DR. F. C. PLUMPTRE, Master of University College, Oxford, died on Monday morning, after a short illness. He was seventy-six years of age, and had held office thirty-four years.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, according to the *Liberté* of the 17th inst., has expressed in a letter his entire approval of the action taken by the Government of the National Defence respecting the armistice, and recommended the continuance of the war to any extremity rather than cede French territory.

MR. ODO RUSSELL, accompanied by Captain Robbins, Queen's messenger, arrived at Versailles last Saturday. Count Bismarck, the Prussian officer to receive Mr. Russell at the frontier. Mobs from the city, who had been disturbed by the escort en route to Sedan.

CARDINAL ANTONELLI is about to dispatch a circular to the European Cabinets on the subject of the seizure of the Quirinal. This document states that the palace was built by Gregory XIII., from money contributed by the whole Catholic world, and therefore can, on no pretext, be claimed as State property, a pretension which has never been advanced before.

MRS. UNA HOWARD died at her residence, 20, Bessborough-gardens, on Monday. This lady originated and carried on the Self-Help Institute for Distressed Gentlewomen.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS, after having been for two months in a very alarming condition, is now rapidly improving, and will shortly be able to resume his literary pursuits.

THE WARDENSHIP OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE, Radley, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Wood, has been conferred upon the Rev. Charles Martin, M.A., of New College, Oxford, one of the assistant masters in Harrow School.

A NEW HISTORICAL COMEDY, by Karl Gutzkow, in five acts, entitled "The Prisoner of Metz," has been accepted by the Royal Theatre at Berlin.

M. LAURIER has arrived in London to complete the formalities in connection with the French war loan.

THREE YOUNG MEN, described as well dressed, were, on Monday, convicted at the Clerkenwell Police Court of having been guilty of disorderly conduct in Upper-street, Islington, on Sunday evening. Each of the defendants was fined £2 10s.

THE PERCUSSION SHELLS used by the Germans, which explode on striking any hard object, do not answer well in wet weather and soft ground. Numbers were found after the action of the 9th which had not burst.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, which has just been issued, records continued progress in the numbers of children attending the schools, as well as in the aggregate number upon the rolls.

LADY PIGOT, who is now at Metz for the purpose of attending to the wounded, states that there are no other English ladies at Metz. She adds that she has to "rough it," but is well and happy. The Prussians she describes as "loud and consequential," the French as "pale and haggard." The Prussians seem to her Ladyship, however, to be weary of the war.

THE CAPTAIN RELIEF FUND now amounts to about £40,500. A sum of £22,000 is still required to make suitable provision for the widows and orphans of those who perished in that vessel.

ARRANGEMENTS for carrying out the election of the London School Board, by ballot, on Tuesday next, are now complete in most of the metropolitan divisions, and the various polling-places are in course of construction.

THE ELECTION AT NEWPORT ended, on Wednesday, in the return of the Radical candidate, the numbers at the close of the poll being—Clifford (R), 437; Kennard (C), 351—majority, 86.

IN THE CASE OF CREASY WHELLAMS, charged, at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday, with fraudulently collecting money under pretence that it would be applied to the relief of the sick and wounded, the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty," and the prisoner was discharged.

HERR KARL WILHELM, of Schmalkald, the composer of the music to the "Wacht am Rhein," is on a visit to Berlin, where he has been welcomed by all the choristers of the city, bearing cresset lights and banners. In front of the house where he is staying they sang the "Wacht am Rhein" and the "Deutsche Vaterland."

MORE MEN AND BOYS are being taken on at the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich, and extra workshops are in course of erection in that part of the Arsenal which is devoted to the manufacture of cartridges. In this department several hundred additional hands are to be employed.

SEVERAL TRADESMEN were, on Tuesday, summoned at Marlborough-street for having infringed the provisions of the Smoke-Nuisance Prevention Act. A fine of 20s. was inflicted in each case.

THE COLONELCY OF THE ROYAL LONDON MILITIA, which has recently been declared vacant through the retirement of Alderman Wilson, has been conferred upon Alderman Sir William Anderson Rose. Mr. Alderman Wilson had held the post for sixteen years, and had maintained the regiment at a state of remarkable efficiency. The Queen has permitted the Colonel, who retires on the ground of ill-health, to retain his rank, and wear the uniform of his former regiment.

A RICH MINE OF SILVER has been discovered near Tilt Cove, Newfoundland; several specimens of gold have been also found near the same place; and a mining party has started from St. John's for the scene of the discovery.

MESSRS. KRYGER AND AHLMANN, Danes, have been returned by a very large majority as representatives of North Slesvig in the Prussian Parliament. This indicates a strong feeling in that country in favour of annexation to Denmark.

THE O'DONOGHUE'S AFFAIRS were before one of the registrars in Bankruptcy on Saturday. The debts are stated to be about £20,000, against property held as security valued at £4500, and other assets representing £1200. An arrangement with the creditors will in all probability be carried out.

A MAN NAMED APPS was convicted at the Middlesex Sessions, on Tuesday, for having victimised several builders in the metropolis by representing that he had fallen over some timber upon their premises and received serious injuries. In this way he had obtained £100 as "compensation" from six firms. He was sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

A PREDICTION has lately been current among the lower classes of France to the effect that from Nov. 11 the fortunes of the nation would take a new turn, and the Germans be driven out of France, this prophecy being connected with the aurora borealis. The success at Orleans has strengthened this prophecy.

THE DIGNITY OF KNIGHTHOOD is, it is said, about to be conferred on Mr. Llewellyn Turner, who has finally resigned the office of Mayor of Carnarvon, which he has held eleven years in succession, during which he has rendered valuable services in connection with the improvement of the borough. In 1860 he received the thanks of the Admiralty for his exertions in raising and keeping together a fine body of the Naval Reserve within his district.

THE UNITED STATES have certainly sent to France, since last September, nearly 400,000 rifles, with upwards of 50,000,000 cartridges, about sixty cannon, five Gatling mitrailleurs, and 2000 revolvers. These figures by no means approximate to the real total, as many shipments have not been reported.

JOSHUA TURNER, a boy about eleven years of age, was charged, at Sedgley Police Court, on Monday, with stabbing Joseph Brooks, aged fourteen years. The lads were playing together, when a quarrel arose between them, and, after exchanging blows and kicks for some time, Turner drew a sharp knife and thrust it into the thigh of Brooks, causing a deep wound. The lad was so ill as to be confined to the house for a week. Turner was committed for trial.

AMONG THE OFFICERS WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE OF COULMIERS were the Duc de Chevreuse (hit at noon by a bit of shell, and who could not be carried off the field till five p.m.), the Viscount de Montesson, M.M. de Luyne and de Juigné. M. Lamandé, a Lieutenant twenty years of age, was killed at the head of his company by a bullet in the breast. The old noblesse of France are not slow to shed their blood in their country's defence, even though the summons be in the name of a Republic.

A SUIT IS IN PROGRESS in the Court of Vice-Chancellor Malins for the administration of the estate of the Rev. Elias Huelin, one of the victims of the Chelsea tragedy. Mr. Huelin had left a legacy to Ann Boss, his servant, the other victim of the crime, and a question was raised which of the two was murdered first. In the case of the servant dying before the taster, her legacy would have lapsed, while in the other event it would fall to her legal representatives. The matter at present stands over for inquiries.

THE ARRANGEMENTS for a working union between the South-Eastern, the Brighton, and the London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, for which the Parliamentary notices had been prepared, fell through at the last moment, and the negotiations are at an end. It is stated that the Chatham Company's directors rebelled against the conditions. Such a union as was contemplated cannot now take place for a year or more.

THE LOUNGER.

SHALL we go to war with Russia? I don't know, my friends, and will not pretend that I do; and herein I claim of my readers more confidence than they are too apt to give to many of my brethren of the press, who, though they know no more than I do, pretend to know a good deal more. Nor will I pretend to report, as many journalists do, especially "our own correspondents," what is the opinion of people "who," as the phrase is, "ought to know." At all times it is very difficult to get at those knowing people. In the vacation it is impossible. I read in a letter from a London correspondent to a provincial paper of note the other day "that, in the highest circles, the general opinion is that war is inevitable." I know that correspondent; and I should say, decidedly, that his "highest circle" is bounded on the west by Temple Bar, or, at the farthest, by Charing-cross. When Parliament is sitting, I, as you know, Mr. Editor, can get speech of those who, if they do not move in that highest circle, do make incursions into it, and bring me news therefrom of what people think and say within its bounds. But even that news I have learned from experience to receive with no great confidence; for in that circle, in which foolish people outside of it think men know everything, there is really very little known that is important. Nay, I sometimes fancy that as much futile gossip goes on there as outside. Indeed, I have myself not unfrequently tracked the most outrageous canards to that said circle. But, my readers may say, "Surely you have formed an opinion, and, living in town as you do, and mixing with all sorts of people as we know from your writings, and having access to documents and books inaccessible to us, your opinion must be more valuable than ours." Perhaps so; but, after all, I can only reason upon the subject, and that I have done, as closely as my logical power will enable me to do, and I believe that my reasoning is quite correct. I have examined closely my major premiss, my minor premiss, and my middle line; and my conclusion is irresistible that we *ought not* to go to war, and this is all I can say. And that, my dear reader, is very little, for a puff of passion or ambition will in such matters as these blow the best constructed syllogism to shivers in a moment. The truth is, if men would but be ruled by reason, there would never more be another battle fought. But, after all, men will put more or less confidence in the opinions of gentlemen of some position; and, as this is so, I will give my readers the opinion of three members of Parliament which have just come to me by post. A, a Radical, says—"We shall have no war." B, who is not quite so broad in his politics, says cautiously—"I think we shall have no war." C, a Conservative, says—"If Granville has pluck enough to stand firm to his last despatch, there need not be any alarm." And so I leave the matter.

Meanwhile, let us look at Russia as it is now; for Russia is now under very different conditions to what it was in 1853, seventeen years ago, as we shall have to learn in a practical manner if we decide for war. In the first place, in 1853 all the Russian peasantry, with perhaps a few exceptions, were serfs; now they are all free, and owners or tenants of the soil which they till. It was on July 2, 1858, that the emancipation of the serfs was decreed. How this great revolution was accomplished I have not space to tell at length; but, shortly, it was in this manner. The lords of the soil were compelled to sell the land to the serfs, and to take payment in the shape of Government bonds, lent to the new proprietors on security of their land, they paying interest thereon, and something over, gradually to liquidate the bond. The effect of this revolution is twofold. It broke the power of the great nobles, which so long overshadowed, and not infrequently endangered, the throne; and, further, it did for Russia what Stein did for Prussia; it based the strength of the nation not upon the aristocracy, but upon the whole of the people. But what most concerns us is this: If we go to war with Russia we shall not have to fight with slaves, as we did seventeen years ago, but with free men. This change was a terrible blow to the proud nobles of Russia, and to some very distressing. Many of them were obliged to sell their remaining estates. By-the-way, a countryman of ours, I hear, Mr. Brodgen, the member for Wednesbury, a wealthy ironmaster, has bought a very large estate in Russia.

But the next change which has been made still more concerns us. In 1853 Russia had but little railway accommodation. There was a line completed from St. Petersburg to Moscow, and another from Warsaw to Cracow, making together about 500 miles of railway; but now there are over 2000 miles, and 2000 more are ordered, and are being rapidly constructed, I am told by a friend who has contracted for some iron bridges thereon. But it is with the lines made that we have to do. The line, then, from St. Petersburg to Moscow has been carried on 410 versts (about 300 miles) to that great entrepôt of commerce, Nijni-Novgorod, on the Volga, which is navigable to the Caspian Sea; and in another direction the St. Petersburg and Moscow line is carried on to Kiev, or Kief, an important city in the centre of Russia, with a population of 50,000 souls, situate on the river Dnieper, at its confluence with the Prepytia, both navigable rivers through vast tracts of country. Indeed, it would appear that by the Dnieper and the Prepytia merchandise may be carried from Warsaw to the Black Sea. Then there is still another line branching off from Moscow which runs to Voronezh, or Voronesch, a city with a population of 20,000. This town is situated on the famous river Don, which is navigable to the Sea of Azov. There is also the Riga and Dunaberg line, which runs from Riga, in the Gulf of Riga, in the Baltic, to Orel, on the Moscow and Kiev line, joining at Kiev, midway between the two cities Kiev and Moscow. But neither does this complete the ramifications of the great line starting from St. Petersburg. At a place called Kursk, situate on the line between Orel and Kiev, there runs upon my map a dotted line to Kharkow, from which place there is a line to Taganrog, on or near a bay at the north-eastern extremity of the Sea of Azov; and then, going back to Kharkow, I find a line with a dotted break in it running to Odessa, on the Black Sea. These dotted lines indicate that the railways were, at the time when my map was posted up, not finished. I suspect, though, that now they are completed. There remains now only one more line which we need notice, but that is a very long and important line. The line from Warsaw to Cracow has been carried on from Warsaw northwards to St. Petersburg, and from Cracow eastwards to Jassy, whence, if the short dotted lines are completed, as I suspect they are, it goes on the left to Odessa, and on the right to Galatz, an important town in Moldavia, situate on the left bank of the Danube. This long, important line, as it passes through the Austrian and by the Prussian frontier, joins itself to the Prussian and Austrian railway systems. Besides these lines there are others partly made—perhaps, indeed, at least some of them, wholly made—though on my map they are represented by dotted lines. For example, there are three lines from the Moscow and Voronesch line to join the Volga at different points.

The Emperor Alexander in planning or sanctioning these railways had doubtless two objects in view, both interesting to us: first, he would have them laid down in such directions that, in case of war, he may be able rapidly to move his armies to the frontiers of his empire. During the Crimean War it is said that many thousands of men perished on their way to the Crimea. Now he has a line of railway from St. Petersburg, through Moscow, to the Black Sea, taking up other lines in its way. But Alexander is not like Nicholas, who was a mere soldier. The story goes that when Nicholas was asked which way he would have the St. Petersburg and Moscow line run, the grim soldier unsheathed his sword, laid it on the plan, and drew a straight line between the two cities, without saying a word. But his successor, a much wiser man, is very anxious to develop the productiveness and commerce of his country, having learned that he will thus promote its greatness more than by conquest. Some months ago there was unusual activity in Central Asia. Russia was establishing military ports between Turkistan

and the Caspian. Of course, our Indian people were alarmed. But a well-timed official report, which I wrote about in these columns, showed that these military posts were intended to defend a road for the vast commerce of Turkistan in a more direct way than it has been accustomed to go. Formerly it went to Nijni-Novgorod by a circuitous route; but by this new route it would flow upon the Caspian, and thence by the Volga to Novgorod, to be distributed by means of the railways abutting on the Volga to almost any part of Russia. And now, in conclusion, let me say that this account of Russian railways has cost me much time and labour, and I am not at all sure that it is absolutely correct. The truth is that, except Bradshaw, which is necessarily but meagre, there are no maps of Russia to be got with all the lines laid down. But I believe that the account will be sufficiently correct to show that, if Russia is determined to fight, which I do not believe, she will have vast advantages which she had not when we invaded the Crimea.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, ETC.

I think it is now pretty generally believed that the article on the War which appeared in the last *Edinburgh Review* (now in its fourth edition), and was attributed to Mr. Gladstone, is not wholly his. Mr. Goschen has been named as having had a share in it, but it appears to be too much Mr. Gladstone's for him to be able to disavow it.

I am not your theatrical critic, and I have not yet been to see Mr. W. S. Gilbert's Fairy Comedy of "The Palace of Truth," but, spoken solely from a literary point of view, a word or two may be admissible from me. I have often wondered why the thing was never tried before, and, thirty years ago, began a fairy comedy founded upon this very story by Madame de Genlis; but I had then never been in a theatre, and was quite unequal to the task, from youth alone. One almost hesitates to go and see Mr. Gilbert's piece for fear he should have left out any of one's favourite bits! Does his Zummo frankly tell Phanor that he wants to go and prepossess Rosamira against him? Does Arpalissa come forward and complain of the rudeness of the people in the saloon of the palace, unconscious of the charm and of the fact that *there* she looked as she really was? Is the inconstant Phanor punished by finding Agelia deaf to his suit at last? Zeolida, Philamir, Zoram, Palmis, Chrisal, Mirza, Gelanor—shall I "re-find" them all, as the French say, with the old by-play that used to read so nicely when, as a little boy, I was wont to devour the book walking along the streets, and cry "slops" when Agelia departed on the arm of Nadir, with the talisman that Rosamira had once got imitated? To this hour my brain keeps the old portraits of all the characters. Rosamira looked so-and-so, and Zummo so-and-so; Agelia was a little woman, and her "tongue had a tang." It is a curious thing that this capital story, which has been so often drawn upon by men of genius for illustrations, has been so little known to the general public. School-girls read it, or used to read it; but how many grown-up people care about it? If anybody who can read French (*I know* of no translation) would like to turn to it, he will find it in vol. 4 of "Les Veillées du Château." In the same volume is a good story of French society in the days of Philippe Egalité, entitled "Les Deux Réputations;" and there is a mythological piece entitled "Daphnis et Pandrose;" or, *Les Oracles*. There are many amusing and suggestive references to French opinion and French manners of the day, and, incidentally, a claim is set up (in the story of the two men of letters, Damoville and Luzincour, and the pretty widow Aurélie) for the mental equality of women with men. It is a curious fact that the whole volume is written to the tune of the first sentence of the preface to "Daphnis et Pandrose"—viz., "Je voulais prouver que l'amour n'est qu'une illusion." &c. This doctrine was natural enough in the mouth of Madame de Genlis, if the shocking and universally credited scandal to her dishonour is true; but how odd that she should so persistently write up "La Religion et les Mœurs," maintain her cheerfulness to the last, and do so much good. For her act was not one of open defiance founded upon opinion (like, say, any act of Mary Wolstoncraft's or her daughter's), but one of continuous domestic treachery, of a kind which every code under heaven condemns. I wish some one would look up the story and re-examine it. It would be a fine thing to have it disposed of; and a very few proved improbabilities would go far to crush it.

The *Fortnightly* contains a most able letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Chesney on the political situation in Europe, and an equally able rejoinder from Mr. Morley, the editor. But the "sensational" paper of the number is by Mr. George E. Church, on "Bolivia and Brazil in the Amazon Valley." Mr. Henderson, upon "Schilling's Life and Letters," has produced a dry paper out of a most interesting subject. Justice has not yet been done to the fertility of Schilling's mind. I must add, by the way, that I never was able to see, what Mr. Henderson appears to see, the profundity of "Bengel's Gnomon." I have very carefully looked at it, and can see nothing in it but immense industry, and a rather more than usual amount of the tendency (common to such books) to twist words from their plain meaning, and create camels out of the inner consciousness. The reason that lies at the bottom of all this is plain—people do not love the truth; they like ingenious inventions, "exquisite ideas," and endless new readings. Mr. Freeman's "Stray Thoughts on Comparative Mythology" contains some keen criticisms on Mr. Cox; but were they really necessary? Has Mr. Cox positively a following? If he has, all I can say is, Camels out of the moral consciousness, how mighty is your sphere!

In the *Contemporary* Mr. Arthur Helps continues his delightful dialogues, or rather discussions, on "The War and General Culture;" and, among other good things, makes Milverton fish up some wonderful passages from Machiavelli applicable to the siege of Paris and the whole military situation. I have to acknowledge with thanks a copy of a reprint of this article. Mr. J. M. Ludlow on the European Crisis is very full of matter, and he makes some hits. Mr. Stigaud on "Past Sieges of Paris" is, of course, highly interesting. Perhaps the best paper in the number is one by Mr. A. Taylor Innes, entitled "Mr. Gladstone in Transition," which brings into a light thoroughly new to me the alleged change in Mr. Gladstone's convictions on the Church Establishment question. It is a curiously lucid and temperate essay, and finely thought out. Perhaps it may be referred to by me some other day. The history of Mr. Gladstone's opinions upon the subject is just what you might expect in the case of a man with the intellect of a politician and the temperament of a saint. Professor Huxley is welcome in this excellent periodical.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

It is difficult to write about Mr. Burnand's burlesque at the VAUDEVILLE with temper. It is more than sad to see a gentleman of Mr. Burnand's undoubted talent wasting his time and the patience of the public upon such doggerel as "Elizabeth." This production has not one redeeming quality. The writing merely displays a certain power of stringing together meaningless phrases, bad jokes, and lunatic nonsense. The actors are asked to make themselves absolutely silly. The songs are commonplace, and the whole entertainment is about as good a specimen of degraded literature of the nineteenth century as it is possible to find. But there is a certain bright side, a silver lining to the black and threatening cloud. The author, who has taken so many liberties with the public, has now gone a step too far. He has been called to order times out of number by the press; and now the pit and gallery, who stood his friends so long, have broken out in open mutiny and refused to listen to any more of such childish fun. The next management which accepts and produces a burlesque of this class will run the risk of losing the confidence of the public. I should not dream of saying as much as this if I thought Mr. Burnand were merely an incapable and unfortunate

author. But when I know him to be a rare humourist, and when I feel how much he could do were he to take pains, I am naturally grieved to see him annexing his name to a composition in which he cannot have the smallest faith. No burlesque author yet had such a company to write for. Mr. James and Mr. Thorne are, however, reduced to dancing, singing nonsense, and old pulchritudine business. Mr. Stephens gambols about, as unfitted for such fun as an elephant in a minuet. Mr. George Honey, an excellent comedian, only gets a laugh by dint of the most extravagant straining; while such ladies as Miss Nelly Power and Miss Newton, who have not nearly so much claim to be written for, but who possess a certain bright talent, are not allowed to appear bright or to show their talent. I have no wish to linger any longer on "Elizabeth" at the Vaudeville. The injury done to the stage by such entertainments is unquestionable, and I can only regret unfeignedly that, notwithstanding the rebuke of the pit, there are still noodles who will go to the stalls, and crack their sides over the most absurd of all modern burlesques.

It looks like an odious comparison when I turn with pleasure to review the charming comedy which Mr. Gilbert has given us at the HAYMARKET. From an art point of view it is distressing to tell the truth, which must be told. Mr. Burnand and Mr. Gilbert possess so very much the same kind of humour, and have distinguished themselves so very much in the same field of literature, that it looks like mere favouritism when one is blamed and the other is praised. But by the queerest coincidence in the world Mr. Burnand has produced his worst piece and Mr. Gilbert his best within a few hours of one another. It is only fair, however, to Mr. Gilbert to say that he has always been pushing on to a higher style of art. "The Palace of Truth" is a novel entertainment altogether. It has nothing in common with burlesque, travesty, or extravaganza. It is merely a pretty fairy story told in easy blank verse, and dressed in early fifteenth-century costume. The formation of the comedy is the old fancy of an enchanted palace, within which all unwittingly speak the truth. They are all unconscious of the spell, and, acting as if under the influence of the world, their lips utter what their hearts would speak. The charm of such a story is extremely subtle; but I rejoice to record how the audience appreciated the vigorous sketches of character, the clever dramatic points, the soothing softness of the story, and the graceful language in which it is told. "The Palace of Truth" is not only a play to see; it is a play to read. I must compliment the artists, too, on their success. Mr. Buckstone and Mrs. Chippendale were of course admirable, speaking their lines with point and unction, and never missing a chance. They are, of course, man and wife; and their matrimonial bickerings are lively and instructive in the extreme. Mr. Kendal and Miss Robertson are a pair of lovers; and they act gracefully at least, if not with quite sufficient passion. The best acting character is that which falls to the lot of Miss Caroline Hill. Mirza is a charming part, and Miss Hill may be congratulated on the clever and tasteful manner in which she rendered it. Many an actress of more pronounced power may envy Miss Hill her sweetness and certainly be jealous of her luck in getting such an opportunity. But for the best acting in the comedy I have to come down to Mr. Everill and Miss Fanny Gwynne, who play comparatively subordinate characters. The great difficulty is to find an actor or actress who will preserve their worldly individuality while under the influence of the Palace of Truth. Here Mr. Everill and Miss Gwynne were particularly successful. Mr. Everill was especially good. He is Chrysal, the flatterer; and when in the palace he preserves all his "gush," though saying the rudest things imaginable. If all could have seen the author's intention as well as Mr. Everill, the success of the comedy would have been even greater than it was. Miss Gwynne is a pretty little flirt, who throws herself in the way of the handsome Prince, in order to captivate. Under the influence of the palace she declares that she hitches up her dress on purpose to show her foot and ankle, and in apparently modest tones urges the young man to squeeze her hand, to clasp her waist, and to kiss her lips. Azima was charmingly played. I wish the character given to Mr. Rogers had been a little stronger. He played it extremely well. For a long time I have not enjoyed a new play so much; and from the genuine applause of the audience I am encouraged to hope that a fresher, more intellectual, and more refined style of entertainment is likely to find favour with a very fair share of the playgoing public.

It is the most difficult thing in the world to dramatise a novel, and particularly such a disjointed, awkward novel as "The Old Curiosity Shop." Mr. Halliday has done no more than arrange a series of tableaux. To anyone who was not familiar with the work the play of "Nell" would be an utter fog. People come in and do things without any object. Scenes are given which lead up to nothing. Actions are perpetrated with no purpose in view, and, altogether, the new play at the OLYMPIC is very mystifying and annoying. The comic scenes are amusing, but overdone; and the sentiment throughout is a nuisance. Little Nell and her grandfather wander in and out, and talk sentiment by the yard. They utterly fail to interest the audience throughout the play. I do not anticipate such a success for "Nell" as was gained by "Little Em'ly," though we are treated to such claptrap expedients for gaining popularity as a fair scene, a house on fire, and a churchyard scene in which the roof comes off the church, and discovers a group of ballet angels bearing the body of Little Nell to heaven. The author has not much to congratulate himself upon. He has used the language of Mr. Dickens freely, and tacked together several well-known scenes. But he has failed to give us a play. The acting was not, on the whole, so good as I should have expected. I made up my mind for a triumph on the part of Mr. Clarke and Mr. Belmore. The Quilp was good, well made up, and carefully studied; but it was not an extraordinary performance. The Grandfather was a picturesque but not a forcible specimen of acting. Mr. Fisher, as Swiveller, and Miss Johnstone, as the Marchioness, were by far the best. Their scenes, though introduced without any point, relieved the general dullness of the piece, and really they were admirably played. The Nell was altogether a mistake. An uninteresting Nell, of course, ruins the play. A worse selection for the character than Miss Florence Terry could hardly have been found. A certain fascination and daintiness might possibly make amends for weakness and want of practice; but, unfortunately, this young lady does not possess any compensating qualities, and, as far as I can see, does not possess a scintillation of the talent of either of her sisters. Mr. Sampson Brass, by Mr. Blakely, and Mrs. Jarley, by Miss Saunders, may be recommended as careful and unobjectionable performances. On the whole, "Nell" is disappointing, and is not to be recommended. Mr. Halliday has proved how impossible it is to dramatise such a novel, and, in all probability, Mr. Dickens would have said the same thing, though we are told how extremely anxious he was that Mr. Halliday should do it, and that it should be done at the Olympic.

I have already said scores of times why I dislike the Othello of Mr. Phelps. There is no need to open up the subject again. Many folk think otherwise, and the performance has been received with enthusiasm at the QUEEN'S. Mr. Ryder, on the other hand, is the very best Iago on the stage, and the good in this case cancels the bad.

Mr. Santley has been singing as Tom Tug in the "Waterman," and delighting the GAIETY audience with Dibdin's cheery old nautical ballads. "Fra Diavolo" is to be produced to-night (Saturday).

Mr. Shiel Barry, the capital Irish actor, has appeared this week as the Irish servant in Lover's "Handy Andy." But some radical change must be made before the public will patronise the PRINCESS'S.

A neat little farce called "Christmas Eve," at the ST. JAMES'S, written by Mr. Cheltnam for Mr. Brough and Mr. Harry Cox, completes my list. It is capably acted, and causes a good deal of real merriment.



THE FRENCH CAMP (DE FAILLY'S) AT



BAUMONT, SURPRISED ON AUG. 30.—(SEE PAGE 349.)

A PAMPHLET ON THE CAUSES OF THE WAR.

THE *Français* has published, at Tours, a highly-interesting pamphlet, by a well-known Parisian journalist, M. Sidney Renouf, under the title of "M. Thiers et sa Mission en 1870." M. Renouf can, however, be only the compiler of the disclosures made in this work; he was not a member of the committee of the Corps Législatif to which were communicated despatches preceding the declaration of war which were withheld from the Chamber; but M. Thiers was a member of that committee, and M. Thiers is in Tours, at the Hôtel de Bordeaux. Count Daru may very possibly have also contributed some information to this pamphlet. Whoever the actual author may be, he has had access to the secret archives of the Foreign Office, and is familiar with European diplomacy. The following is a translation:—

"When Count Bismarck was Ambassador in Paris he laid himself out to study the character of the Emperor, and sent to Berlin some remarkable despatches on his ambition, personal weakness, and intellectual faculties. He detected in him political propensities and desires which he had neither the clearness of head nor strength of will to execute. Count Bismarck systematically laid himself out to flatter the vanity and the fancies of Napoleon, who thought himself a master in the art of statecraft. He affected a deference for his political ideas which he was far from feeling, and assumed the manners of a humble servant of Napoleon, who, he pretended to think, was alone capable of directing the affairs of Europe. Sometimes his natural bluntness got the better of him, and he indulged in a freedom of speech which set diplomatists aghast. 'We' (the Prussians), he said, 'are stronger than you are, for we can dash into a gigantic war without internal danger. Nothing would be easier than for us to let loose a million of men upon any of our neighbours.' In speaking thus, Bismarck did not so much intend to frighten the Emperor as to inspire him with a great respect for Prussia, and to drag him into an alliance which he hoped would be of the utmost importance in bringing Germany under the yoke of Prussia. In the autumn of 1865, Bismarck, who had meanwhile obtained a high position at the Court of Berlin, went to Biarritz to utilise his previous studies of the Emperor's character, 'in working Napoleon.' He went straight to the point in the first interview, and proposed an alliance. Prussia was to make war on Austria, and France to send an army across her eastern frontier. The allied forces were not to join hands, though they were to execute combined movements, the object of which was to be the seizure by Prussia of Austrian Germany, Hanover, and Saxony, and by France of Belgium, Luxembourg, and even the Prussian and Bavarian territory on the left bank of the Rhine. We cannot give all the conversation which passed between the Emperor and M. Bismarck at Biarritz, but we can certify that the Prussian statesman one day said:—'Not to mince words, Sire, we are a couple of wolves. Let us carry off a sheep each, and afterwards settle who's to have the skins.' It was impossible to define more clearly the nature of the proposed alliance. Certain it is that the Emperor, while refusing to agree to a common course of action, entirely approved of Bismarck's plan; and the latter, to enable the Prussians to concentrate themselves, promised not to interfere between them and Austria. Louis Napoleon, moreover, granted Bismarck leave to form an alliance with Italy with a view to paralyse half the forces of Austria. This alliance was the key to the position. But for it the skill of Bismarck and the science of Moltke would have been powerless to cope with South Germany. The conduct of the Emperor only admits of one explanation. Allied with Prussia in the war of 1866, he would have been obliged to share her risks and sacrifices, and to content himself with limited advantages which might be more than counterbalanced by the relatively superior gains of his ally. But in letting Prussia act alone, he hoped that she and Austria would be nearly equally balanced. The Emperor knew that the Prussians were the best armed; but he had never forgotten the solidity of the Austrian resistance at Solferino, which alone yielded under the crushing force of rifled cannon. His calculation was that no decisive result could be soon obtained, and that at the end of a struggle which would mutually exhaust the combatants he would come forward without having struck a blow, and carry off the lion's share."

Sadowa upset all these calculations. However, the Emperor, still fancying his prestige was unshaken, pompously intervened. Bismarck, not wishing to complicate the situation, or to risk afresh the fortunes of war, allowed him to save his dignity by a fictitious mediation, in which M. Benedetti found himself a very poor personage. His advice was never once asked, the peace of Nikolsburg was arranged entirely between Bismarck and Austria. The single satisfaction given to France was the reduction of the indemnity of war from 60,000,000 florins to half that sum. The Emperor, who thought to out-manoeuvre Bismarck, was out-manoeuvred by him. The sudden and brilliant victories of Prussia galled and alarmed him. The conditions of the peace were still more irritating. Surprised, beaten with his own weapons, humiliated, and angry, he completely lost his head, and never afterwards recovered it. From that moment there was no unity in any of his plans. His policy became fitful and incoherent. One day the boldest schemes were broached. Another day cowardly fears prevailed. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, one of the few capable Ministers who accepted office under the Second Empire, vainly attempted to resist the overbearing acts of Prussia. Frequently it happened that, after he thought he had convinced the Emperor that in a dignified course alone lay safety, and went away satisfied that his advice would be followed, he received a little note to intimate that Napoleon had changed his mind. If he refused some exorbitant demand of Prussia, or expostulated with her on some breach of faith, Count Goltz appealed to the master, and both refusal and protestation were at once annulled. We shall give two examples which occur to us. The very day after the victory of Sadowa Count Goltz hastened to the Foreign Office at Paris to read a despatch received from his Government. Prussia, he alleged, had gone to war to destroy merely the excessive preponderance of Austria, whose narrow and reactionary ideas hindered the onward march in Germany; the King of Prussia had no idea of conquest beyond adding a few scraps of territory to his kingdom, the united populations of which did not amount to more than 350,000 souls—an augmentation fully sanctioned by the Emperor in his letter of June 16, 1866, which was read by M. Rouher to an applauding Chamber. In a word, Prussia desired an enlarged frontier, and the day after her great victory, still thinking the consent of France necessary, she asked it through her Ambassador. The French Minister replied by a formal refusal. 'Prussia,' he said, 'may impose directly whatever conditions she pleases on Austria; she may alter, according to her own interests, the Germanic Confederation, and she may dictate a new constitution to the Bund. But France can never consent to the territorial aggrandisement of a Power which is inevitably her rival, and with whom a collision may any day take place, seeing that she is her nearest neighbour.' Count Goltz returned to the charge; but M. Drouyn de Lhuys maintained his position in energetic language. On issuing from the Minister's cabinet the Ambassador rushed to the Tuileries and demanded to see the Emperor, who gave him then and there an audience. We cannot say exactly what happened at it; but this much we affirm, that the day following Count Goltz returned to the Foreign Office rubbing his hands, and crowing over the Minister, to whom he announced that the Emperor was more tractable than M. Drouyn de Lhuys, and had consented to Prussia annexing territories which represented 4,000,000 souls! It was thus, with the personal complicity of the Emperor, that the kingdom of Hanover, the duchies of Nassau and Brunswick, the half of Hesse-Darmstadt, Lauenburg, the Hanse Towns and Frankfurt, were absorbed by Prussia. In making this concession, the Emperor flattered himself that he was paving the way for a future success, when in reality he was preparing the destruction of the nation he governed. This was the first act in the awful drama, begun at Biarritz and ended at Nikolsburg, which singularly modified the positions of France and Prussia in their relations to each other

and to Europe. The results of Sadowa were regarded with instinctive terror by the French people. M. Drouyn de Lhuys called the Emperor's attention to the dark presentiments then rife, and entreated him while it was yet time to satisfy on this point the well-founded demands of the nation. He submitted to him a note addressed to the Cabinet of Berlin, in which he demanded as compensation for the aggrandisement of Prussia consented to by the Emperor the territories situated on the left bank of the Rhine from the north-west angle of the duchy of Luxemburg to the fortress of Mayence, inclusively, which was the only stronghold France asked for. The Minister, in laying this note before the Emperor, supported it with *viva voce* arguments. Napoleon could not help admitting their justice, and he consented to the course proposed by M. Drouyn de Lhuys. The note was sent to Berlin, and orders given for M. Benedetti to read it to M. de Bismarck, and to maintain with firmness the attitude assumed by France. M. de Bismarck declared outright that any cession of territory was impossible, war between France and Prussia would be inevitable. Headvised Benedetti to withdraw the note, in order that he might not be obliged to speak of it to the King. M. Benedetti said he had formal orders which he must obey, and that, if M. de Bismarck shrunk from broaching the subject to the King, he would demand an audience of his Majesty, read the despatch to him, and leave him a copy of it, as, said he (leaving one on M. de Bismarck's desk), I am ordered to leave one with you. 'Oh, if that's the way you want to act,' replied M. de Bismarck, 'I have no objection to communicate it to the King, whose answer you will have to-morrow.' On presenting himself next day at the appointed hour M. Benedetti heard from M. de Bismarck that the King betrayed the most profound emotion while the note was being read to him. He cried out, 'Why, the day after to-morrow France and Prussia will be cannonading each other if the Emperor persist in his claim. Declare to him that I can do nothing for him. Public opinion in Germany would never consent to my ceding him a single inch of German territory. Not only say this, but send without delay a categorical refusal in writing.' The King, to give emphasis to his written refusal, called one of his own aides-de-camp, whom he told to be ready to take that very evening a letter to Paris, and himself hand it to Count Goltz. This aide-de-camp had been connected with the Prussian Embassy in Paris, where he had friends and relations. In his conversations with them he confirmed what we have said about the irritation of the King on hearing the French note read to him. The King's answer was not shown to M. Benedetti until the aide-de-camp had nearly reached Paris. When Count Goltz was in receipt of it he hastened to read it at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. It was couched in such plain terms that on hearing it M. Drouyn de Lhuys said, 'All discussion is useless; I have only to record in a minute that the King absolutely refuses to yield.' 'That is his formal intention,' returned Count Goltz. 'In that case we have nothing more to say. I shall,' continued the Minister, rising, 'lose no time in reporting the situation to the Emperor; on which the Ambassador also rose and took his leave. Now Count Goltz knew too well the road from the Foreign Office to the Tuileries, and he knew that he could lodge there appeals against the decisions of the Quai d'Orsay. He therefore rushed down stairs, and called out to his coachman, 'Quick! to the Tuileries.' In two minutes he was there. The Emperor at once gave him an audience, and when he issued from Napoleon's cabinet he was authorised to telegraph to Berlin to Benedetti, 'The Emperor thinks the King's reasons valid. Ask nothing.' And when M. Drouyn de Lhuys arrived the incident was closed; but it was not terminated for all that. Though annulled by the Emperor, the note and the demand it contained still remained in the hands of M. de Bismarck. The Bavarian Premier, M. von den Pforten, was then at Berlin, whither he had come to beg pardon of William for entering, before the war, with Wurtemberg into an alliance with Austria. He had at first, with the other humbled and beaten Courts of South Germany, sought the protection of the Emperor Napoleon, and when no sign of life was given at the Tuileries, he resolved to sue for mercy at Berlin. At this unfortunate juncture for France, Bismarck sent for Pforten and showed him M. Drouyn de Lhuys's note, in which the Bavarian Palatine was demanded. 'There is what you may hope to obtain,' he said, 'through the protection of the Tuileries.' He then read him a copy of the King's answer, and of Goltz's despatch, telling of the Emperor's easy retraction. Pforten was dumfounded. In his terror at finding himself deprived of his last hope of a foreign alliance, he concluded the military treaty before he left the room, in which South Germany, as we have found to our cost, became the *point d'appui* of Prussia. Such was the second act of the drama. M. de Bismarck therein showed himself a skilful juggler. He marches from success to success, and France descends through irresolution to abasement. The third act, which we have yet to recount, had its origin in the mortification at being fooled, and the bitterness of disappointed ambition which invaded the soul of the Emperor Napoleon, whose mind from the time of Sadowa seemed to have lost its balance, and whose attention was fatally absorbed by German politics, which, unfortunately, he was incompetent to deal with."

We shall publish the concluding portion of this curious pamphlet in our next week's Number.

THE DAKIN FAMILY MOTTO.—The motto on the crest of the Lord Mayor is, "Strike, Dakin, strike; the devil's in the hemp." The following explanation is given in M. A. Denham's "Slogans of the North of England," 4to, 1851, p. 14:—"The strangest of all northern mottoes, 'Strike, Dakin, the Devil's in the hemp!'—is, I believe, first found in the grant of new arms by Flower, in 1568, to Arthur Dakyns, Esq., of Linton and Hackness, in Holderness. . . . Arthur Dakyns was a general in the army; but as, two or three centuries ago generals commanded on sea as well as land, I imagine that he had distinguished himself in some gallant fight—perhaps against the Spaniards—wherein all the turning-point of victory consisted in cutting some portion of a ship's hempen sails or cordage. It often happens that mottoes are dispersed among branches to whose history they are wholly inapplicable. The elder Dakyns of Derbyshire, enchanted with the exploit of cutting the devil out of the hemp, assumed the odd motto in question at the very commencement of the seventeenth century, and confirmed to them in 1611 by St. George. The crest always consorted with the motto. Out of a naval coronet springs an arm brandishing a hatchet, and prepared to strike."—*City Press*.

A SURPRISE FOR KING WILLIAM.—King William, in the midst of his army at Versailles, can scarcely anticipate the visit which he is to receive; though if he is a constant reader of the *New York Times* he may have some inkling of an event truly without precedent. The Woman's Suffrage Association, with a courage far greater than that displayed by the neutral Powers, has determined on intervention, and has given to it a very potent shape. At a recent meeting of that body the following thrilling resolution was passed:—"That, having full faith in the potency of moral power in the problem of the world's peace, we, in behalf of the women of America, do constitute and accredit our countrywoman, Mrs. Emilie J. Merriman, our peace-advocate and commissioner, to proceed with all dispatch to France, to present the gravity of considerations of peace to William, King of Prussia, and to Jules Favre, Minister of Foreign Affairs for France, and to intercede with them for peace." We also have "full faith in moral power; we are no sharers in the belief that big battalions can do everything, or that all protests are weak against great armies; yet we can hardly expect an absolute success for the commission of Mrs. Merriman. Before the Crimean War, a deputation of Quakers—excellent, well-intentioned men—went to St. Petersburg to make a protest against war; but the Emperor assured them that he shared their horror, only the evils he wished to abolish were worse than any war; and they could make no reply, simply because they had not considered the subject from that novel point of view. Having thus completely silenced the visitors, his Majesty took them to see the Empress, and thus the mission terminated. Possibly Mrs. Merriman may there commence, and the King may at once refer the diplomatic lady to Queen Augusta, at Berlin, though we do not see how he can avoid extending to the fair commissioner the courtesy of an interview; and, in that case, most assuredly her mission will be without precedent or parallel. Already we have English ladies practising in the medical profession, we have them appearing as candidates for election to the School Board, and they are splendid auxiliaries in the very field of battle as charitable attendants on the sick; but they have not yet taken any part in the diplomacy or statesmanship of war. Mrs. Merriman is the first accredited envoy appointed by the citizens of the great republic to challenge the loyalty of a King by summoning him, in the very hour of triumph, to the highest tribunal of Christianity and humanity.—*Telegraph*.

THE INVESTMENT OF PARIS.

THE Germans have had a small "scare" by the movements of the French armies in the departments, and in particular by those of the Army of the Loire, and of some troops who lately appeared at Dreux. The special correspondent of the *Times* at Versailles thus describes the state of affairs:—

"The crisis is over! The French have withdrawn from Dreux; they have lost a chance, and the investing army has been relieved from a position which it is not too much to call one of peril. For three days it was not known what was the composition of the army which had suddenly appeared on the line of the Eure. Was it the Army of the Loire, which had evaded the combined forces of the Duke of Mecklenburg and Von der Tann? If so, it was evident that the Crown Prince was threatened, and that he would have to move out and give battle. But if the Paris garrison made a grand sortie at the same moment, it became matter of doubt whether the Germans could hold their own on the high plateaux which now give them such mastery. The Prince certainly could not take off 80,000 men without leaving a very thin line of circumvallation. The Grand Duke might be cut off from his communications. If, on the other hand, the force which had been felt at Dreux and seen in front of Mantes was a new army, it might be that Bourbaki had by forced marches got out of Manteuffel's reach, and was striking out to join Paladine d'Aurelles; in which case the Grand Duke might be overwhelmed and a serious offensive movement commenced to check Prince Frederick Charles and to isolate him from the army of the Crown Prince. But whatever it was, the army, which is believed to have been composed of Kératry's levies, has gone back, and at the same time the force which fell on Von der Tann and precipitated the evacuation of Orleans very rudely has vanished from Theury. Manteuffel has been heard of not far from Amiens. Prince Frederick Charles has made good his communication with the Crown Prince's army, and both are *en rapport* with the army of the Duke of Mecklenburg. A sufficient force has been concentrated towards Dreux and Mantes to secure the Crown Prince's lines from attack. The danger has passed. The French have lost a great opportunity; and in war as in other matters, the golden moments once neglected do not return. There is now no talk of any packing up or of taking the field here. But the greatest change of all is that which has been noted in the attitude of Paris. A sortie was for three days regarded as positively certain. It was to be a grand movement in three directions—one attack was to be directed against the Wurtemburgers between the Seine and Marne, another in the direction of Choisy from Villejuif; a third against the heights of St. Cloud and Meudon. So it was said. These reports, coincident with preparations for an extensive expedition which would weaken the force of the investing army, caused much anxiety."

"The French in Versailles were elated. They heard that all was packed up, and the flight of the Prussians was on their lips. They had comforting rumours of victories at Chartres, and at Dreux, and Vernon, and Coulmiers—anywhere—everywhere. The King was off. Roi Guillaume would come back no more. But he never went away, except for a drive; nor did the Crown Prince, save for a drive round his posts after breakfast. No sortie took place. The mournful silence of the forts, which was supposed to be a preparation for a great outburst, continued as though they had profited by Count Bismarck's lecture against the 'gas-pillage' of their ammunition. Bad weather, 'good for a sortie,' was followed by fine weather, 'good for a sortie' too; and yet no sign. The remaining arches of Sévres Bridge were blown up; guns were mounted in the new earthworks at Valérien. Men swarmed in new lines of trench and strengthened batteries already strong, but still there was no 'ausfall,' and now comes the conviction that there will be no 'ausfall' at all, unless, indeed, the guns of a relieving army are heard in Paris itself. The tone of the Paris papers is altered. The policy of sorties is more than questioned. Unless the Press is guided by common consent—fancy such a thing in the Paris Press!—and wishes to deceive the enemy, knowing that papers fall into the hands of the Prussians every day, the peace party gains ground, and despair is taking place of defiant confidence. The only hope for Paris is from outside. Are they really going to fight famine and the Germans too? The *Figaro* of the day before was read in the Prussian head-quarters yesterday. Other papers have taken the same course, and attack the Government, it is said, for neglecting the armistice. In other words, Paris despairs of being able to raise the siege, and, if no succour comes, must yield to hunger. And in reference to that potent enemy, let us remark that, but for the fortifications of Paris, the ravages in the ranks of the war party caused by want of food would have been much more considerable. Their fire sweeps over an immense extent of farm ground and market gardens, orchards and cultivated fields, whence the inhabitants have drawn and draw great quantities of vegetable food, fodder, forage, poultry, corn, and the like. It is now very patent that the designers of the forts committed enormous blunders. They put the forts, with the exception of Valérien and the Double Couronne, too near the city, and placed them on the inner line of heights, instead of occupying the outer ridges. Had the heights over St. Cloud or Montretout, Meudon, and Clamart been covered with works like Valérien the difficulties of a besieging army would have been prodigious, and Paris within its double enceinte would have had a long life of it. The same remarks apply to the north-west and north of Paris, where there are points over Argenteuil and at Orgermont, Villetaneuse, &c., which might have been profitably occupied, for there are men enough in Paris to hold even larger lines, and the space inside would have afforded a vast supply of food. If a thing is to be done at all it were well to do it thoroughly. Large as is the circle inclosed by the forts, it is scarcely possible to concentrate 10,000 men even in any place within the lines without the knowledge of an enemy, unless at night. The ground is so exposed that no considerable sortie can occur before the outlying army has been put in position to meet it, and the debouching columns are in all cases exposed to fire from higher ground. I speak of the north-west, west, and south of the city. No greater mistake could have been made than the Generals who were charged with the defence of Paris committed when they left the numerous suburban villages and towns even as harbours, barracks, and quarters for the enemy. If they were resolute in war to the knife, no regard for private property, or any property, no considerations of the ruin and distress, and even execration, they would cause, ought to have influenced them in sparing one of those pleasant places; the Russians would have burned every house. The Parisians only cut down trees, and cut up roads, and blew up bridges, or, at most, turned the inhabitants out of the suburbs. The French spared St. Cloud, which they have since destroyed, leaving, however, much of the treasures it held to the besiegers. They spared Meudon, which is now nearly in ruins. The people in the villages which now shelter the Prussians have been forced to leave by the latter; and in their dwellings quantities of provisions and wine fell into the hands of the victors which might have been carried into Paris. There would have been a great outcry, perhaps; but, after all, if Paris is to be considered a fortress, its defenders ought to have prepared for a siege just as the commander of any other strong place would, whose first steps are to destroy everything outside his works which can benefit the enemy and impede the defence. If the Parisians open fire now on Bougival or on Argenteuil they will probably kill some miserable French men or women who still linger there. But the inconvenience caused to the Germans would have been enormous had they been treated to a series of 'charred remains' instead of the belt of Kews, Sydenhams, Forest-hills—only far more rich, luxurious, and picturesque—with tick clustering maisons de plaisance, châteaux, villas, &c., in which they now lodge, and which are beautiful even in ruin."

"My private opinion is that the Germans are not ready to begin a bombardment, and that when they are ready they will bombard—that is, if the measure becomes necessary or even advisable to precipitate results. But what will they bombard? Whether

they will or no, they cannot bombard the city. Paris is beyond the reach of their guns. Although the forts were built before rifled ordnance were in use—which, indeed, may to some extent, if not altogether, account for the position of the outer line of defence adverted to in the earlier part of this letter—they are still so far in advance of the more important parts of the capital as to render the reduction of their fire imperative before batteries can be established to reach the city. The Invalides, for instance, is more than three miles in rear of Fort Vanvres, and consequently must be quite out of range of the battery nearest to that fort. Valérien is more than three miles from the line of the inner enceinte inside the Bois de Boulogne. The north of Paris is for the present quite safe, and the east is far out of the reach of fire. It is near St. Cloud, Montretout, and Sèvres, and Mondon that the German lines sweep nearest to the city. But at these points the city only offers unimportant suburbs—Boulogne, Auteuil, Billancourt, Grenelle, Vaugirard, &c.—where there are industrial establishments, pretty villages, working men's lodgings, and the like, but no very important quarter the destruction of which would have a bearing on the means of defence. The inner line of defence, at its nearest point to the outer line of forts (at Bicêtre and Montrouge), is a mile in rear of it. Given, then, ample supplies of provisions, and we would have reason to expect a defence which would force the besiegers to resort to sap and parallel before they could really bombard, effect breaches, and venture on assaulting the works. As that postulate is inadmissible, the processes of starvation may be regarded as the least costly to the besiegers, although they will be a long time about it, and may produce a moral effect in France of a character disadvantageous to the army of occupation. One of the ration cards I have seen is marked off for portions up to Jan. 10, 1871. Some time ago there was a calculation that Paris would hold out for sixty-five days. All calculations relative to the stores of a city of 2,000,000 people, filled with provision-dealers, épiciers, provision warehouses where there are and must be very large supplies laid up by private individuals, and where preserved meats, vegetables, soups, &c., have been extensively used for years past, must be fallacious. It is the moral effects of short commons rather than the actual consequences of famine to which the besiegers have to look for the submission of Paris. Faction, divided councils, possibly forlorn outbursts, may prove their best allies. But, in any case, let no one in England or out of it, if he be not a belligerent, think that the least good will be produced by declaring 'he is sick of the war.' It is only the affair of the French and Germans, and if they are not sick the nausea of their neighbours will only produce an irritating effect on the combatants, who will each of them say, 'Then why do you not side with us, and help to stop it? If you do not, hold your tongue.'

OPINIONS ON THE RUSSIAN QUESTION.

MR. J. S. MILL.

MR. J. S. MILL has addressed the following letter to the *Times*:—"Without wishing, at least for the present, to discuss the character of the declaration just made by the Russian Government—a discussion which would raise questions, both moral and political, more intricate and difficult than people seem to be aware of—may I hope from your impartiality that you will allow expression to be given through your columns to the opinion of at least one Englishman, which he believes to be shared by multitudes of his countrymen, that for England to let herself be drawn into war by this provocation or on this account would be nothing less than monstrous. This is not the doctrine of a partisan of peace at any price. Had we, at the first breaking out of the present hateful war, declared that whichever nation first invaded the territory of the other should have England also for its foe, we should, at an extremely small risk to ourselves, in all human probability have prevented the war, and perhaps given commencement to a new era in the settlement of international differences. To effect this great good to humanity and to public morals, we did not choose to incur a mere chance of being involved in war, and in my opinion we were wrong, and have exposed ourselves to the just recriminations of the suffering people—I do not speak of the Governments—of Germany and France. Were we now to plunge into a war infinitely more dangerous to ourselves, and for which we are, materially speaking, totally unprepared, those among us who are the causes of our so doing will, in my judgment, deserve and receive the execration of the people of England. The honour of England is not concerned either in the protection of Turkey or in the humiliation of Russia. Treaties are not made to be eternal, and, before we go to war for the maintenance of one, it behoves the nation at least to consider whether it would enter into it afresh at the present day. We should have learnt little, indeed, from the spectacle that has been going on before our eyes during the last four months if we allow our journalists to hurry us into a war under the plea of honour, merely because of the manner or the form in which Russia has thought fit to throw off an obligation the substance of which we all admit we ought to be ready to reconsider."

EARL RUSSELL AND LORD SHAFTESBURY.

Letters on the Eastern question have also appeared in the *Times* from Earl Russell and the Earl of Shaftesbury. It appears to Earl Russell that, whatever measures our Government may take to support and maintain the spirit of Lord Granville's firm and unanswerable despatch, one measure is indispensable. Remarking that last year he urged that the Crown ought to be armed with more authority to call out and embody the militia, Earl Russell says the Ministry cavilled about the terms of his bill, but they consented to take power to embody the militia in case of an emergency. Now, without pretending to know the legal meaning attached to the word *emergency*, it seems to Earl Russell that when the Minister of a great Power assumes on behalf of his Sovereign the right to set aside and abrogate a treaty which binds seven of the chief States of Europe, an emergency exists. It is said at St. Petersburg that Russia has 500,000 men in arms; and at Cologne the number is talked of as 900,000. It is notorious, too, that troops have for some months been moving from the north of Russia towards the frontier of Turkey. Under these circumstances, then (Earl Russell proceeds), "whether our voice be for peace, as I hope, or for war, which may become inevitable, I am of opinion that 100,000 men of the militia, in addition to the militia reserve, should be embodied, and that we should thus obtain the means of filling with flesh and blood the skeletons of our attenuated regiments." In a second letter Earl Russell says:—"I should be disposed to say, in the spirit of Lord Granville's despatch, if the Russian Emperor asks for a conference on the Treaty of 1856, at a time when such a conference can be assembled, let us meet him in a fair spirit, and consider with France, Prussia, Italy, Austria, and Turkey in what manner we can find a substitute for the neutralisation of the Black Sea. But if the Czar proposes to set aside the Treaty of 1856 by force, let us meet him by force; and the sooner the better."

Lord Shaftesbury "trembles" when he sees that so high an authority as Mr. Mill, though widely different in spirit and in style, is, in respect of the binding nature of covenants, at one in principle with Prince Gortschakoff. Russia is resolved to violate, by force, the terms of a treaty because they are burdensome to her. Mr. Mill is not disposed to observe them, when called in question, unless they be so convenient that the country would be ready to enter on them afresh. Such principles as these (says Lord Shaftesbury) are absolutely fatal. They stand in the way of all peaceful solutions, of all permanent arrangements. Everyone now is panting with desire to see the termination of this dreadful war between France and Germany. But how can the parties come together for any useful issue under this new interpretation of the law of nations? Every clause of a proposed treaty will be subjected to mental reservation; and under the language of grave promise and solemn engagement will lie force and opportunity, the real meaning of the thing, whenever they can be advantageously exercised. If this view be con-

firmed by public opinion, it will be well that England, at least, having got rid of the present treaty, should take good care never to contract another for any purpose or with any people.

PROFESSOR CAIRNES AND MR. E. A. FREEMAN.

Professor Cairnes, in a letter to the *Daily News*, declares that for England to accept the charge of enforcing single-handed, or even with the help of such Powers as Austria and Turkey, a treaty to which all the chief States of Europe have set their seals, would be an act of perfectly gratuitous quixotism, more especially as it is admitted that the substance of the Russian demand, or something tantamount to it, must be conceded.

Mr. E. A. Freeman also writes to the same journal to protest against jeopardising a single English life, or spending the smallest coin of English money, in any quarrels which Russia or Turkey may choose to get up in the Black Sea. He calls the Crimean War a needless and unrighteous war, and asserts that its real object was to establish the position of a usurping dynasty. "But we are told," he proceeds, "that we are bound by the treaty and we must carry it out. Yes, perhaps—if we or any other nation were in the habit of carrying out treaties. But we did not trouble ourselves about the European treaty which put all Bonapartes from the throne of France. Instead of so doing, we fell down and worshipped the first Bonaparte who could get there. One treaty was broken when Prussia annexed Schleswig; another treaty was broken when 'L. N. Bonaparte' seized the neutral land of Savoy. The independence and integrity of the Swiss Confederation would be a nobler object of warfare than the independence and integrity of the Ottoman despotism. I am far from saying (Mr. Freeman goes on) that we ought to have helped Germany in her present warfare, righteous and glorious as it is; but I do not understand with what consistency we stand by while the common disturber of Europe attacks our brethren without a shadow of provocation, and then think of flying to arms in a quarrel between two worthless despots at the other end of Europe."

Literature.

Beyond These Voices. A Novel. By LORD DESART, author of "Only a Woman's Love." Three vols. London: Tinsley Brothers.

It is not often, nowadays, that we have a real live Lord entering an appearance in the republic of letters as an ordinary novelist. The masculine titled novelist is becoming a much rarer bird than he was a generation or so since. Whether this is owing to the prevalence of the notion that loftier themes than novels claim the attention of aristocratic minds, or that aristocratic minds in larger numbers than of yore sink below even novels, it is perhaps not worth while to inquire. The fact we believe to be certain that comparatively few noble authors now contend for the honours of circulating library popularity. It is, therefore, with something like pleasure that we congratulate Lord Desart, not, indeed, on his début in the realms of fiction, but on his reappearance there in a very creditable manner. We do not suppose that to write at all constitutes any special merit in a lord; but when a lord writes well, we think his merit should be handsomely acknowledged. You see, there are so many reasons why lords, as lords, should not only not write at all, but that they should write indifferently if they do: first, most of them have no motive; second, many of them have no brains, or little; third, few of them undergo the training requisite for success; and, fourth, almost all of them are above criticism, and consequently beyond profiting by the judgment of others. But Lord Desart has not only written, but written well; and we are therefore anxious to acknowledge his merit as handsomely as our humble ability will permit.

"Beyond These Voices" is a story which, if not exactly of the thrilling order, is yet of very decided interest. It is a picture of Irish life in the present day, the events occurring during so recent a period as that which saw the height of the Fenian fever, when took place the rising in Ireland, the murder at Manchester, and the explosion in Clerkenwell. The Fenians, in fact, play a very prominent part in the narrative; and it is creditable to Lord Desart's generosity that, though a Conservative and an Irish landlord and Churchman, he is neither bigoted nor violent, but can do justice even to members of the Fenian brotherhood, as witness the sketch he gives us of the Irish-American enthusiast Macdermot, a man of fine parts and noble aspirations, but whose too much zeal and rude disillusioning drove him mad. Of the other characters, perhaps the most striking delineation is that of Father Murphy, who is a very type of the intriguing, unscrupulous, Jesuitical, yet withal self-deceiving priest, as popularly understood among Protestants—at all events, amongst Anglo-Protestants. The analysis of this priest's nature, as given in vol. ii., pp. 219-225, is really a most skilful performance; and true as gospel is the following paragraph, by which said analysis is introduced:—

It is seldom that the narrow-minded country clergyman whom we so often meet, who believes devoutly in the curses of the Athanasian Creed, who can actually subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles with a clear conscience, has begun other than as a generous-hearted, though, perhaps, not over-wise student. He has gradually thought and talked himself into bigotry; and, once there, all the wisdom of Europe cannot drag him out of the slough of cant he has made for himself. Give him the upper hand, and he is bad enough; but only honour him with the least atom of what he calls persecution; and he rises to his full majesty, and attains the summit of the sublime and the ridiculous.

The story may be simply outlined thus:—The hero, Thomas Dillon, of Ballytobin, is a squire of comfortable means and cultivated mind, but of somewhat unstable disposition. He becomes enamoured of a peasant girl, Kathleen O'Feelan, and is induced to marry her—partly to gratify his own fancy, and partly through the intrigues of Father Murphy, who makes him believe that he can thereby save the life of an English friend whom he (Dillon) has induced to purchase property in Ireland, and whose passion for improvement evokes the vengeance of the Fenians. Dillon is deceived in the hope of saving his friend, who is murdered during Dillon's absence in England on his marriage tour; and there is reason to believe that the actual perpetrator of the crime is Kathleen's brother, Larry O'Feelan, a thorough blackguard. This event and its associations beget in Dillon a feeling of aversion towards his young wife, which is intensified by a sense of the mésalliance he has formed; and both these sources of mischief are aggravated by the intrigues of Father Murphy, who hopes through Kathleen's influence to make a convert of her husband. The Father is forbidden the house, but continues to meet Mrs. Dillon when out walking alone, is seen in converse with her by Dillon; and the breach between husband and wife is thus widened. The results are that Dillon goes off to London, leaving his wife in Ireland; that he neglects her somewhat really, and is made to do so more apparently, by Father Murphy managing to intercept their letters to each other; that reports of his rather questionable conduct in London reach Ballytobin; that Kathleen, believing she has lost his love and that he will be happier without her, leaves her home and flies to Dublin, where she is by-and-by discovered, in a starving state, by a certain ancient Yankee stoical philosopher, to whom she is known, and who had been mixed up, in connection with Macdermot, in the Fenian conspiracy. The Stoic saves Mrs. Dillon from starvation, but not from consumption; and, to hinder Dillon's search after her—for with her loss all his old affection returned—reports her as dead to the priest, who, for his own purposes, readily receives and vouches for the tale. Not doubting the story told to him, though contenting himself with rather slender proofs, Dillon marries again, this time to the daughter of a peer, with a husband-hunting wife and several "marketable" daughters, whom their mother is anxious to get "settled," and so entraps the Irish squire. Things do not go pleasantly at Ballytobin, and Kathleen is discovered in Dublin by her brother Larry, who first takes a bribe

from the Stoic to conceal his knowledge, and then sells his information to Father Murphy, who, armed with Dillon's secret, fancies he has him in his power, and boldly places this alternative before his victim—"Either become a convert to Popery or I denounce you as a bigamist." The victim resists; the Father is compelled to reveal all his treacherous intrigues, and is on the point of being throttled when Kathleen re-appears, having come to seek one last glimpse of her husband ere she dies. Dillon carries her almost lifeless form into the midst of a gay galaxy of his second wife's fashionable friends, acknowledges her right to be there, and a grand "smash-up" is the consequence. Poor Kathleen, however, dies; Dillon is re-married to Lady Alice, who then parts with him in scornful disdain, and he returns to his old mode of life, with his only sister, at Ballytobin, there to await the time when he shall pass.

To where, beyond these voices, there is peace.

This line from Tennyson, as will be seen, gives a title to the book; which, with much that is good in it, is marked by a few faults. The political bias of the author, though by no means rabid, is clearly perceptible throughout, and becomes disagreeably palpable in a speech Dillon delivered to his tenants, in the course of which he makes some statements which are perhaps more in accordance with the notions of "Constitutionalists" than with truth. Addressing Roman Catholics, Dillon says—

You know as well as I do, though it doesn't suit your newspapers and orators to say so, that your churches are the finest, and your cathedrals the grandest, throughout Ireland. You know that, if there is ever any difficulty in the way of money matters among you—such as the restoring of a chapel or the building of a priest's house—the Protestant landlord is the first to come forward with assistance. Is any attempt to make proselytes among you? Is our creed taught at all in the national schools? Are not the majority of the schoolmasters of your own persuasion? Do we ever—and, though Paddy O'Rourke is looking at me, I ask the question fearlessly—do we ever make any difference, in our dealings with our tenantry, between Catholics and Protestants?

Now, we believe these things are not true as a rule, though exceptional cases may exist; and, as regards one special point, even if it were universally the fact that "Catholic chapels are the finest" and "Catholic cathedrals the grandest" in Ireland, they owe their superiority mainly to the Catholics themselves, and not to Protestant aid; the adherents of that creed, and especially the clergy thereof, being much more apt to take than to give. Some other faults might be picked out in these pages; but they are slight; and, on the whole, "Beyond These Voices" is a novel worth reading, for more reasons than one.

The Whispers of a Shell. By FRANCES FREELING BRODERIP. London: Griffith and Farran.

Madeleine's Trial, and Other Stories. Translated from the French of Madame Pressensé by ANNIE HARWOOD. London: Hodder and Stoughton.

What She Did with Her Life. By MARION FOSBROKE THEED. London: Routledge and Sons.

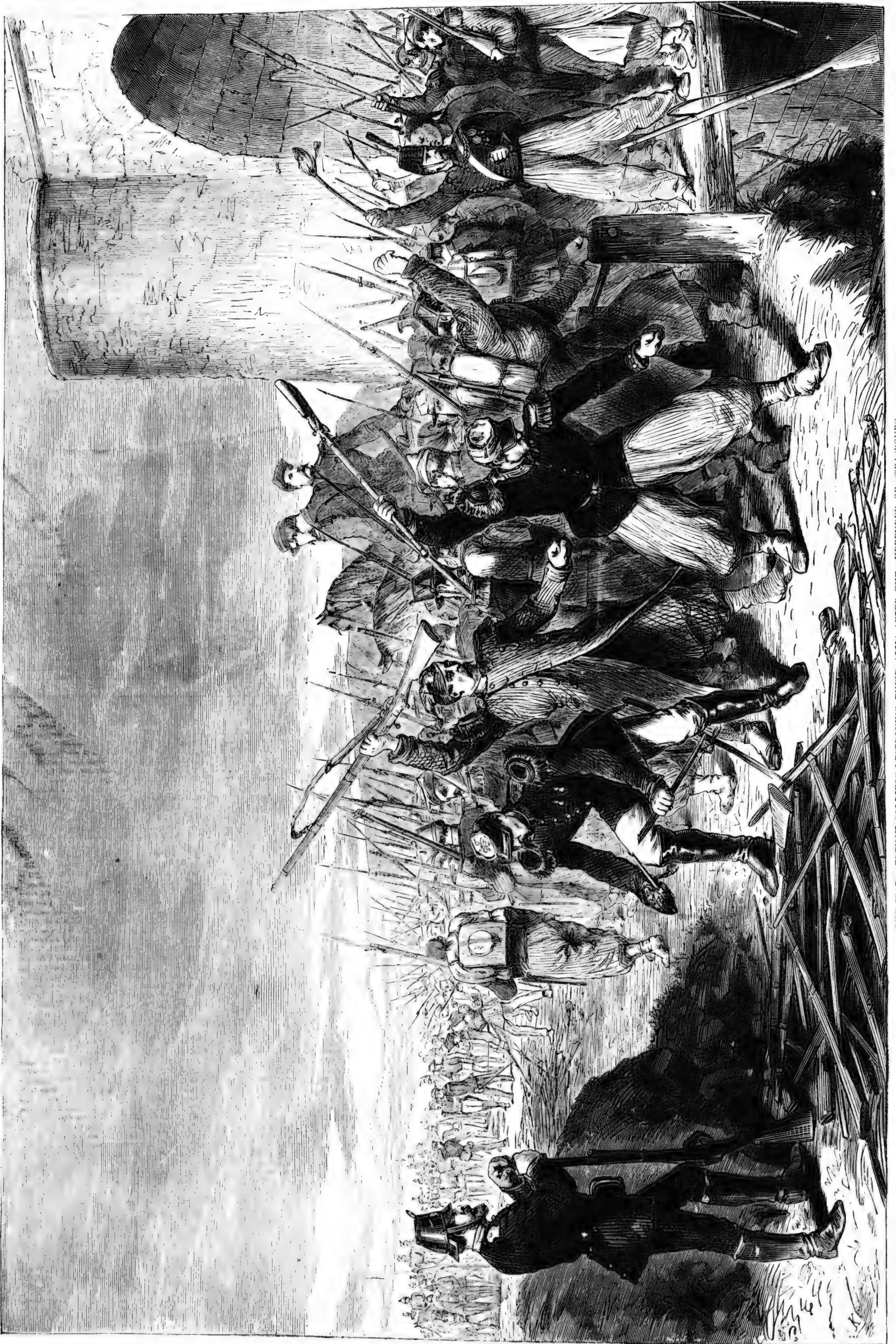
Because we place these three books together, it is not to be inferred that they bear any striking resemblance to each other. Though the two first are evidently intended for "young people," and are likely to be among the prime favourites in juvenile libraries, the last of the trio can scarcely be deemed suitable for youthful readers; and it may be regarded as unfortunate that such a book should be presented in a form of type and binding which will probably lead to its being classed among the family story-books of the season.

To begin with Mrs. Broderip's charming volume. We might almost content ourselves with saying that it is Mrs. Broderip's, and there leave it. It is distinguished by the purity and (so to speak) the dignified familiarity of language that is the happy characteristic of the authoress. At once maternal and sisterly in its tone, the easy picturesqueness of the stories is accompanied by a domestic quality that is remarkably attractive; and the subject of the tale, or rather the several simple tales which are included in the main story, is pretty sure to commend it as a book often to be missed from the library shelf and afterwards discovered in the nursery drawer. The main story is a capital and touching narrative of a girl whose mother dies while her father is at sea. In the house of her aunt—also the wife of a sea captain—the native interest of the child in the wonders of the ocean (which had already led to her forming a queer collection of stones, shells, and odds and ends from the beach) is gratified by permission to dust and arrange some rare and beautiful shells in a cabinet in the best parlour. Here she is lost in admiration over one fine specimen which in childish fashion she places to her ear, and in sleeping or waking imagination listens to its strange revelations of pearl-diving, coral reefs, and other matters with which stories of living men and women are connected. The idea is somewhat fanciful, but it is at all events well carried out, and the book may well lead to the awakening of a very genuine interest on the part of young readers for that exquisite branch of natural history which relates to the living wonders of the deep, and things that have "suffered a sea change."

"Madeleine's Trial" is the first of eight stories included in a pleasant volume of translations from Madame Pressensé's "Scènes d'Enfance et de Jeunesse;" and though their French origin is sufficiently obvious not only in the peculiar form of "goodness" that distinguishes them, but also in that slightly stilted expression which almost inevitably belongs to translations of juvenile tales when a faithful regard is paid to the meaning of the author, they are, on the whole, well adapted for the children's department of the family bookcase. They at least possess the advantage of being short, and the plots are simple and easily followed, even by a very immature scholar; while the sentiment involved is, in each case, so unexceptionable that even the most demure governess of the "old school" would pronounce the book to be "excellently adapted alike to the comprehension, the gratification, and the moral tuition of youth."

So much could not be said for the third of the volumes that we have bracketed together in this notice. "What She Did with Her Life" is a more unpleasant story than even its title indicates; and any sensitive young mind—even though it may be far enough from those prudish affectations which are characteristic of Mr. Podsnap's "young person"—would be shocked by the calm want of appreciation which the supposed narrator of the story seems to have for the kind of unselishness which deserves to be made the subject of even a one-volume novelette. The story does not lack power, and the interest is generally well sustained; but it is founded on the most unpleasant of all themes—the fear of hereditary insanity; while the incidents are mostly in painful accordance with this main feature of the plot. As a sensational three-volume novel the story might, perhaps, be amplified; or as a tale running through three numbers of a magazine the readers of which are fond of high seasoning, it may have already made a successful appearance; but in its present form it can scarcely be regarded as a satisfactory illustration of the verse from "Locksley Hall" that stands as the text on its titlepage. Of this titlepage and the printing and binding of the volume we may be permitted to say a word of praise, if only to notice the attention which these important matters receive at the hands of Messrs. Routledge in the books issued from their house.

PROPOSED METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—Several matters of interest to the residents of London are mentioned in the Parliamentary notices for the ensuing Session. The Metropolitan Board of Works propose to purchase Hampstead-heath and to take charge of Leicester-square, setting apart the latter for the recreation of the public. If necessary the board will acquire all rights and interests compulsorily. Further provision is to be made for regulating the supply of gas to London, and a measure is promised making it compulsory on the several water companies to afford a constant supply, to improve the quality of the water at a cheaper rate, and to provide a more summary method of recovering penalties against them. It is also proposed to take powers on behalf of the Corporation of London and the Metropolitan Board of Works to buy up the companies if hereafter it should be thought desirable to do so.



THE WAR: FRENCH SOLDIERS DESTROYING THEIR ARMS AFTER THE SURRENDER OF STRASBOURG.

WAR SKETCHES.

Two of our war illustrations this week are occupied with the disaster at Sedan. The large view shows the camp of De Failly at Beaumont which was surprised by the Germans on Aug. 30—a surprise which inaugurated the series of defeats which culminated in the capitulation of the French army. Of this event full particulars were published by us at the time. It will be recollected that General De Failly was reported to have been killed in the fight between his startled troops and their adversaries. This report was afterwards contradicted; but as no mention has ever been made of him since, there can be little doubt that the hero of Mentana perished as ingloriously on the banks of the Meuse as he had some years before triumphed over Garibaldi in Italy.

Another illustration shows a portion of the artillery captured at Sedan parked outside the place in readiness for removal by the Germans. The array of guns here collected, though formidable, was only a part of the spoil of that terrible defeat; and we should think that if the military authorities of Germany do not care to utilise these pieces and others taken before and since by incorporating them in their own stores of artillery, every village in the Fatherland may be favoured with a cannon as a trophy of the victories won by the forces of King William in France.

Our third Engraving depicts that painful scene in Strasbourg after the surrender, when numbers of the French soldiers—not a few of them in a state of intoxication—destroyed their arms rather than deliver them up to their conquerors. The officers broke their swords, while the men smashed their chassepots or threw them into the moat; and a very strong expression of dissatisfaction at the capitulation and of scorn for the captors was made. This conduct was almost exclusively confined to the regular army; the Mobiles and National Guards generally acting with more dignity and self-respect. Of course, it is easy to appreciate the feelings of men accustomed to think themselves invincible while smarting

under the disgrace of defeat; but a petulant ebullition of temper and a display of bad manners were scarcely the most becoming way of giving expression to personal and patriotic sentiment in such circumstances. It is to be hoped that the men enrolled under the Republic will bear themselves in a more seemly manner than did many of those trained under the Empire.

SEBASTOPOL FIFTEEN YEARS AFTERWARDS.

HAVING visited Sebastopol in the month of August last, we are enabled to place before our readers two Engravings from photographs representing the present appearance of this world-renowned fortress.

It will be seen that Forts Constantine and Michael, on the north side of the roadstead, are still standing, and, indeed, present almost as formidable a front as when they frowned defiance on the allied fleets fifteen years ago. It is true that no guns are mounted on them; but in all other respects, as far as we could judge, they are unimpaired, and could, we imagine, without much difficulty be again made available for the defence of the harbour; at present they are occupied as a barrack and hospital respectively. The divers have removed all the sunken ships, with the exception of one, and the results of their labours were manifest at the time of our visit in the shape of great piles of rusty iron and copper and worm-eaten timber, which is all that remains of the Russian fleet, whose destruction, though causing the most bitter pangs of remorse to its brave Admiral, still testifies to the soundness of the judgment which suggested that extreme measure as a more effectual barrier to the enemies' fleets than its preservation as a "thing of life" could have interposed. Our readers will have no difficulty in recognising the "Man-of-War Creek," at the head of which was moored the Jagondil, an eighty-four gun ship, with her broadside directed against the besiegers. The ruins in the foreground of

the view, overlooking the harbour, form a portion of what was known during the siege as the Karabel faubourg.

We subjoin an extract from "Kinglake's History of the Crimea," which will enable our readers to identify the localities more easily. "Including the eastern suburb, which is called 'the Karabel faubourg,' Sebastopol may be regarded as standing upon a semi-circular tract of ground subtended by the great bay or roadstead, and split into two segments by the man-of-war harbour in such manner that the western segment included Sebastopol proper, with the Admiralty, the public buildings, the arsenal, and the town; whilst the eastern segment—that is, the Karabel faubourg, contained, among other buildings, the docks, great Government storehouses, some barracks on a large scale, and a church. The separation of the town from its faubourg was rendered more complete by the steepness and depth of the ravine which descended into the heart of the man-of-war harbour; for, if a man, being in the town of Sebastopol, desired to go into the faubourg without passing over the water, he would not only have to go down and go round by the Périssip at the head of the man-of-war harbour, but would be forced to ascend the eastern side of the ravine by a steep and difficult road."

The garrison of Sebastopol during the past summer consisted of about 2000 artillerymen, who were encamped on the northern side, a little to the right of Fort Michael. A railroad has been projected, but not commenced, which will place Sebastopol in direct communication with the interior of Russia.

HISTORY OF THE TREATIES OF 1856.

(From the "Telegraph.")

FOURTEEN years have elapsed since Russia agreed to the Treaties of Paris which limited her naval power in the Black Sea; and now she proclaims to the world that she will be no longer bound by that limitation. The articles of the peace of 1856, if



SEBASTOPOL AS IT IS: THE MAN-OF-WAR HARBOUR.

given by themselves without note or comment, might convey little information to the reader who is not particularly well versed in foreign affairs. Diplomatic documents pre-eminently need to be read with a context which is to be found in the records of contemporaneous or antecedent history. They rarely refer to the long wars or protracted negotiations, to the mighty victories and crushing defeats, the dynastic changes or other political vicissitudes, which have induced the contracting Powers to accept the terms ultimately adopted.

Russian aggression upon Turkey has been a stock subject of diplomacy for the last thirty or forty years. The neutralisation of the Black Sea is, indeed, a much older question; in 1739, after her first invasion of the Crimea, Russia, by convention with the Porte, undertook that she would not keep a fleet on that sea; and the Porte, on the other hand, acknowledged the Imperial title of the Czars. With reference to the modern diplomatic controversy, we may conveniently adopt as a starting-point the celebrated Treaty of Unkjar Skelessi, granted by Turkey to Russia in 1833 in consideration of services rendered by her during the struggle between the Sultan and Mehmet Ali. It was agreed that if the Sublime Porte should thereafter require naval or military assistance it should be furnished by Russia in a certain manner; and Turkey engaged to close the Straits of the Dardanelles against the war-vessels of other nations.

We pass on now to the Treaty of 1840, substituted for that of Unkjar Skelessi. By the arrangement of 1840, Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, and Russia severally acknowledged the hereditary sovereignty of Mehmet Ali, undertook to defend the Sultan from any attacks by a co-operation in the two straits, and, with that exception, recognised the rule of the Ottoman Empire which prohibits foreign war-ships from entering the Dardanelles or the Bosphorus. "The Sultan," it adds, "on the one hand, hereby declares that, excepting the contingencies above mentioned, it is his firm resolution to maintain in future this principle, and as long as the Porte is at peace to admit no foreign ships of war into the Straits of the Bosphorus and of the Dardanelles; and, on the other hand, their Majesties engage to respect this determination of the Sultan and to confirm the above-mentioned principle."

Thus, four great Powers, including Russia, debarred their naval forces from access to the Black Sea. Instead of the arrangement of Unkjar Skelessi, which gave special privileges to Russia, that State put herself thenceforth on the same footing with the other three contracting parties. The accession of France to this arrangement was announced in the following year. Addressing the French

Chambers, in 1841, King Louis Philippe said:—"Since the close of your last Session, the questions which excited in the East our just solicitude have reached their term. I have concluded with the Emperor of Austria, the Queen of Great Britain, the Emperor of Russia, and the Sultan a convention which consecrates the common intention of the Powers to maintain the peace of Europe and consolidate the repose of the Ottoman Empire."

A glance at the map of Europe will show why the neutralisation of the Black Sea is regarded by diplomatists, and especially by Turkey, as a matter of supreme importance. The Sea of Marmora communicates with the Mediterranean by the Dardanelles, and with the Euxine or Black Sea by the Bosphorus or Channel of Constantinople. Consequently a ship passing from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea must sail by the Greek islands to the Dardanelles, then across the Sea of Marmora, and finally through the Bosphorus. The waters of this celebrated strait, which flow in a smooth current like a noble river, have a channel some twenty miles long and from one to three miles broad. The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus are the double gates of the Black Sea, upon which Turkey has a coast of more than a thousand miles. It is obvious that if the two straits are closed this coast is safe from the attacks of the navies of either of the Western Powers. It is also obvious that the limitation of the naval force of Russia in the Black Sea is equally important to prevent invasions of the Ottoman coast by Turkey's dreaded northern neighbour.

Only four years after the convention had been concluded which provided for the objects we have already indicated, the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire was made by Russia a subject of diplomatic speculation. In a memorandum sent by Count Nesselrode to the British Cabinet, he referred to the tendency of the Porte to extricate herself from her treaty engagements, and to the oppressed state of her Christian population; and, "in the uncertainty which hovers over the future," he insisted upon the value of a previous arrangement by England and Russia. "That understanding," he argued, "will be the more beneficial, inasmuch as it will have also the assent of Austria, between which country and Russia there exists already an entire conformity of principles in regard to the affairs of Turkey." The true significance of this proposal was illustrated in a remarkable conversation between the Emperor Nicholas and the English Ambassador, Sir Henry Seymour, which took place in 1853, and which produced a great sensation when it was reported in this country. After repeating the proposal of the Nesselrode memo-

randum of 1844, that England and Russia should come to a preliminary understanding as to the future of Turkey, the Emperor added, "It would be a great misfortune if the sick man should escape us before the necessary dispositions are made." This infelicitous allusion to the moribund condition of Turkey, and palpable invitation to participate in the appropriation of her territory, has never been forgotten. The purport of this historical conversation was reported by Sir Henry Seymour to Lord John Russell, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, who made an elaborate reply in a note dated Feb. 9, 1853. He observed that no actual crisis had occurred to render necessary the solution of the vast European problem; and that it could hardly be consistent with the friendly feelings which his Imperial Majesty and Britain entertained towards the Sultan to dispose beforehand of his dominions.

The primary occasion of the war declared against Russia by the Turks in 1853, and by England and France in the following year, was the dispute between Latin and Greek monks in Palestine respecting the custody of parts of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. But, as the contest proceeded, this miserable pretext was speedily forgotten—dropping out of sight, just as the candidature of a German Prince for the Spanish throne passed into oblivion after it had served as a ground for the tremendous conflict now waged between France and Prussia. Diplomats, like our English lawyers, are very fond of "feigned issues." Their menaces of war are preluded by fictions like that in which a non-existent John Doe used to complain that an imaginary Richard Roe had dispossessed him of 10,000 acres of arable, 50,000 acres of pasture, 1000 woods, and 100 mansion-houses. The interest of Turkey in the Holy Places was infinitesimal. If they had all been removed from Jerusalem to Jericho, or if the Greek and Latin monks had been drowned in the Red Sea, she would not have grieved greatly. But the Mussulman perfectly well understood that the growl of the great Northern Bear meant mischief—that the coming struggle was a fight for life.

It is not necessary to trace the steps by which England was gradually drawn into the fray, nor to defend her participation in it. There were many eminent statesmen then who thought that the quarrel was none of ours, and there are many now who think that we might very well have kept out of it. But for the present purpose it is not requisite to examine these opinions; in this place it will be sufficient to show that the very questions now raised by Prince Gortschakoff are those which were treated as the most important during the Russian War and the subsequent negotiations.

To treat them as merely subsidiary or subordinate questions is simply a palpable falsification of public documents.

Writing on Feb. 25, 1853—that is, a few days after the famous speech of Nicholas about the sick man—Lord Clarendon thus instructed Sir Stratford Canning, our Minister at Constantinople, with reference to the dangers to be apprehended from a dispute about the Holy Places:—"England, however, is in a position to neutralise by her moral influence these alarming contingencies, and the Porte will learn with satisfaction that, even before your arrival at Constantinople, the best efforts of her Majesty's Government have been directed to restrain encroachments. You will inform the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that her Majesty's Government have great satisfaction in believing that the interests of France and England in the East are identical, and that nothing, therefore, need prevent their cordial co-operation in maintaining the integrity and independence of the Turkish empire."

In March, 1854, France and England proclaimed war against Russia. In the following month Austria and Prussia signed a treaty, defensive and offensive, mutually guaranteeing their respective possessions and engaging to defend the interests of Germany. They also declared their intention to abstain from participation in the general war, and expressed their desire for the restoration of peace. Austria engaged to apply to the Emperor of Russia to stop the further advance of his army and to withdraw his forces from the Principalities. Prussia promised to support these proposals; and, in case they were not accepted, the contracting Powers engaged to repel every attack on their territories and defend German interests.

After the death of the Emperor Nicholas, in March, 1855, conferences were held between the representatives of Austria, France, England, Turkey, and Russia for the purpose of considering terms of peace. The fundamental question was the limitation of the Russian power in the Black Sea. M. Drouyn de Lhuys proposed that Russia and Turkey should thenceforth keep in the Euxine no more than four ships and four frigates, and that France, England, and Austria should, by a firman of the Sultan, be authorised to keep in the Euxine half the Turkish or Russian force. The celebrated "four points" discussed at these conferences were—1, The collective protectorate of the Principalities; 2, the free navigation of the Danube; 3, the revision of the Treaty of 1840, so as to confirm the integrity of the Turkish territory; 4, the collective protectorate of the Christian subjects of the Porte. Russia accepted these points as bases of negotiation.

As the conferences proceeded Prince Gortschakoff was asked to declare what limitation of naval force in the Euxine Russia would accept. The Prince asked for time to obtain specific instructions, and a delay of nearly three weeks was accorded for that purpose. At the end of that time he announced that his Government declined taking the initiative in proposing a scheme. M. Drouyn de Lhuys asked whether Russia would consent to a prohibition to build an unlimited number of men-of-war in the Black Sea. Prince Gortschakoff replied that she could not consent to such an arrangement. Thereupon Lord John Russell cited several historical precedents, and especially the demolition of Dunkirk stipulated by Louis XIV. The Prince answered that no great Power could submit to such conditions unless subdued by a series of disasters.

It is needful to refer thus particularly to the course of the negotiations, because they demonstrate beyond dispute that the restriction of the navies in the Euxine was from the beginning regarded by all the conferring parties as essential to the ultimate compact. Three competing schemes were deliberately discussed by the conference. First, was the proposal of France and England, that Russia and Turkey should respectively have four vessels in the Black Sea, and each of the other Powers only two. Secondly, there was the proposal of Prince Gortschakoff, that the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus should be open to the flags of all nations. Lastly, Count Tolstoy, on the part of Austria, recommended—on June 4, 1855—that Russia and Turkey should settle between themselves the balance of their naval forces, which should not be permitted to exceed the actual number of Russian vessels then in the Euxine.

The fall of Sebastopol took place a few months later. The renewed conferences which led to the Treaties of 1856 were opened in February of that year. After eighteen sittings these documents—four in number—were signed on March 30. The first was a general treaty, signed by the representatives of England, France, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Sardinia. The second confirmed that of 1840 respecting the closing of the Dardanelles and Bosphorus. The third—between Russia and the Porte—fixed the number of vessels which each should maintain in the Black Sea. The fourth was a treaty between England, France, and Russia, by which Russia engaged not to fortify the Aland Islands.

The principal effect of these instruments, so far as relates to the present subject, was, that the Black Sea was declared to be neutralised, and that Russia and the Porte engaged not to establish arsenals on the Euxine coasts, and to keep only a certain number of vessels there. The following are the principal passages of these important documents relating to the questions now revived by the Russian Government.

The Black Sea being neutralised according to the terms of art. 11, the maintenance or establishment upon its coast of military-maritime arsenals becomes alike unnecessary and purposeless; in consequence, the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan engage not to establish or to maintain upon that coast any military-maritime arsenal.

His Majesty the Sultan, on the one part, declares that he is firmly resolved to maintain for the future the principle invariably established as the ancient rule of his empire, and in virtue of which it has, at all times, been prohibited for the ships of war of foreign Powers to enter the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus; and that, so long as the Porte is at peace, his Majesty will admit no foreign ship of war into the said Straits.

The separate treaty between the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan included the following stipulations:—

The high contracting parties mutually engage not to have in the Black Sea any other vessels of war than those of which the number, the force, and the dimensions are hereinafter stipulated.

The high contracting parties reserve to themselves each to maintain in that sea six steam-vessels of 50 metres in length at the line of flotation, and a tonnage of 800 tons at the maximum, and four light steam or sailing vessels of a tonnage which shall not exceed 200 tons each.

It only remains to note the fact that England, France, and Austria, under date of April 15, 1856, concluded a further convention of two articles. In the first the contracting Powers jointly and severally guaranteed the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, on the bases which had been already laid down in the general treaties; while article 2 recorded the agreement of the three guaranteeing Powers that any infraction of the stipulations of those treaties would be considered as a *casus belli*; and that, in such an event,

They will come to an understanding with the Sublime Porte as to the measures which have become necessary, and will without delay determine among themselves as to the employment of their military and naval forces.

RITUALISTIC RUBBISH.—Mr. Charles Walker, who announces himself as "Acting Ceremoniarus"—meaning, we suppose, stage manager—of St. James's Chapel, Brighton, is very anxious that Mr. Purchas's reasons should be known for wearing the "biretta," that mysterious little cap about which an important lawsuit is now being carried on. Mr. Walker is author of the "Ritual Reason Why," and has paid great attention to these subjects. The result of his researches is a conviction that there is nothing symbolical of "the glory of the priesthood" in the biretta, the great object of which is to keep the clergyman's head warm. Mr. Walker, however, does not explain whether the biretta is superior in this respect to all other kinds of headgear; or why, if no special meaning is attached to it by Mr. Purchas and his friends, they should not try a glengarry or one of those nice travelling-caps with flaps for the ears, by way of change. Hitherto many credulous persons have been labouring under the delusion, which Mr. Walker now explodes, that Dr. Stephens knew something about ecclesiastical law, vestments included. It appears Dr. Stephens does not know what the "zucchetto" is. It is not, as he supposes, the external framework, but the inner skull-cap which fits the head, and which is not necessarily or by any means universally buttoned to the biretta which incloses it. These are certainly tremendous issues, and we hope the great button question will be fully considered by the Privy Council.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

MUSIC.

RECENT events at the Royal Italian Opera do not call for a detailed notice. A number of familiar works—"Norma," "Fidelio," and "Il Barbiere"—among them—have been performed in a familiar manner, to the gratification, more or less emphatically expressed, of crowded houses. Speaking of crowded houses, let us say that Mr. Mapleson has, if appearances may be trusted, ample reason to congratulate himself upon the support he is receiving. Night after night the public flock to Covent Garden in numbers which must rejoice the manager's heart; while—a matter far more important—it proves that opera should not be regarded as the exclusive amusement of the few, for which there is no taste among the many. The campaign, we understand, closes in a fortnight; but there is no reason, as far as concerns audiences, why it should not run through the winter. "Semiramide" has been added to the repertory of the autumnal performances since we last wrote, Mdle. Titiens being thus enabled to appear in another of her finest characters. The great Teutonic artist is the only adequate representative of the ill-fated Assyrian Queen; and an opportunity of hearing her sing the music, as well as of seeing her embody the part, is not to be lightly wasted. "She was not less grand on the occasion under notice than in times past; and her delivery of Rossini's melodies, essentially inadequate to the situations as most of them are, proved how a real artist is superior to the materials with which the work has to be done. Madame Trebelli-Bettini (Arsace) added not a little to the success of the revival by her charming singing; and the male characters were fairly sustained by Signor Bettini (Idreno), Signor Antonucci (Oroe), and Signor Foli (Assur). Mdle. Sessi, of the long and golden locks, made her appearance on Tuesday, when she played Lucia in the opera of that name. She comes to us unaltered by the short time that has intervened since the regular season closed—that is to say, her voice is as good as ever, her management of it as artistic, and her style of acting as much deficient in power. But though Mdle. Sessi is far from a great artist, she is eminently respectable in everything she undertakes; while, being ready to undertake anything, her value to a manager must represent a high figure. She was well received and much applauded on Tuesday night, particularly after the duet of act ii. and the mad scene of act iii. In the former case more was deserved than in the latter. Mdle. Sessi should attempt only that which her means make her sure of effecting, because no artist can afford to run risks. The other important characters in Donizetti's opera were sustained by Signor Cotogni (Enrico), Signor Fancelli (who acquitted himself well as Edgardo), and Signor Antonucci (Raimondo). We understand that "Medea" is to be revived, with Mdle. Titiens as the terrible sorceress. Good—very good!

The Crystal Palace concert of last Saturday was unusually well attended, owing to the performance of two important and attractive works—the seventh symphony and fifth pianoforte concerto of Beethoven. No audience, let us say briefly, ever had a more superb musical treat; the symphony being played almost to perfection; and the concerto being rendered even better, thanks to the soloist, Madame Goddard, and to the careful accompaniments of the orchestra. Madame Goddard achieved a triumph of which she may well be proud; for on no previous occasion have her artistic and executive qualities more brilliantly asserted themselves. She retired from the platform amid the unanimous applause of a critical auditory. Other works in the programme were Weber's overture to "Abu Hassan" and Schubert's overture to "Alfonso and Estrella." The vocalists were Mdle. Leon Duval, who made a success, and Mr. Nordblom.

The Monday Popular Concerts have entered upon their thirteenth season; and two of the Beethoven programmes have already been performed, the executants, Madame Norman-Neruda, M. Ries, Zerbini, Piatti, and Hallé, doing entire justice to the music in hand. All the works selected belong to Beethoven's earliest productions, and include the trio, op. 1, No. 1; four of the quartets, op. 18; the pianoforte sonatas in E flat and D major; and the violoncello and pianoforte sonata in F. To dwell upon these compositions is superfluous. They are essentially the most popular, because most easily understood, of the master's productions; and amateurs everywhere know nearly all that can be said about them. The vocalist at the first concert was Miss Clara Doria; at the second, Herr Stockhausen, who, it is to be hoped, will not again do injustice to Beethoven's "Liederkreis" by adapting them to the range of a voice for which they were not written.

A new cantata, "The Rose-Maiden," by Mr. F. H. Cowen, was brought out at St. James's Hall, on Wednesday evening, and obtained a favourable reception. The story (a good translation from the German, by Mr. Franillon) treats of the adventures of the Queen of the Flower-Fairies, who, longing to experience the joy of earthly love, is transformed into a beautiful maiden, meets with the man of her choice, becomes a widow, and dies of sorrow; the moral of the whole being that Love and Grief go hand-in-hand. The subject is fancifully treated by the librettist, and Mr. Cowen has entered thoroughly into its spirit. His descriptive passages are throughout good, the orchestra being handled in a very masterly way; the melodies, if not original either in rhythm or in theme, are pleasing and appropriate; while many of the choruses are capital examples of effective writing for the voice. In brief, the cantata will be a welcome addition to the ranks of its kind; and peculiarly acceptable as indicating where we are to look for yet further additions to our store of good, home-made music. Mdle. Titiens, Madame Patey, Mr. Nordblom, and Herr Stockhausen were soloists; a capital orchestra and fair chorus supported them; and the young composer conducted in person. Mr. Cowen was much applauded at the close of his work.

The Sacred Harmonic Society began a new season with a performance of "Judas Maccabæus," respecting which we shall have somewhat to say next week.

THE SERPENTINE.—The works in connection with the levelling and purification of the Serpentine were finished more than a month ago, and the water commenced flowing in from the Chelsea Waterworks; but, although this has continued daily since that time, the lake, extending as it does over an area of more than forty acres, is not yet by any means full, nor will it be for some time longer. The water, however, is now purer than it has been for many years; but, although the depth has been decreased to some extent, especially at the sides, there is still a depth in some parts of fully 14 ft., though near the ornamental bridge, from which so many suicides have been committed in former years, the water will not be in any place more than 5 ft. deep. The bathers have again taken possession of the water, and, notwithstanding the severity of the weather for the past two or three weeks, there has not been a morning when from twelve to twenty, on an average, did not present themselves for their dip.

WAR PANICS.—As a caution to holders of public securities in the present crisis, the *Financialer* gives the following as showing the effect of the declaration of war with Russia in 1854:—

	Highest. Lowest.			Highest. Lowest.	
	February, 1854.	March, 1854.		February, 1854.	March, 1854.
Consols	92½	85½	London and South-Western	83	72½
Exchequer Bills ..	22s. 2d.	22s. 2d.	Midland	65	54½
Caledonian Railway ..	56½	50½	North-Eastern—Berwick	72	60½
Eastern Counties ..	13½	11	South-Eastern ..	64	56
Great Northern ..	97½	82½	York and North-Midland	51	41½
Great Western ..	84	70			
London and Brighton ..	98	93			
London and North-Western ..	105½	92			

As soon, however, as the public began to realise the situation there was a very rapid rebound, and in three months afterwards the quotations for the same stocks compared as follows with those of the previous March:—

	Lowest. Average.			Lowest. Average.	
	March, 1854.	July, 1854.		March, 1854.	July, 1854.
Consols	85	92½	London and North-Western	92	105
Caledonian Railway ..	50½	52	London and South-Western	72½	84
Eastern Counties ..	11	13½	Midland	54½	67
Great Northern ..	82½	90	South-Eastern ..	55	63½
Great Western ..	70	79	York and North-Midland	41½	54½
London and Brighton ..	93	107½			

FINE ARTS.

NEW BRITISH INSTITUTION, 39, OLD BOND-STREET.

THIS is the first Winter Exhibition of Water-Colour Drawings of the institution to whose inaugural gallery we drew attention last spring; and it is satisfactory to notice that the collection which now occupies the walls in Old Bond-street is in itself an evidence of the position that the society is likely to sustain among the fine-art associations of London.

It scarcely needed the additional attraction of the eight works of the Crown Princess of Prussia and Princess Louise, which have been retained in this gallery from the "German War Relief Exhibition," to increase the interest of the institution; though there are, doubtless, a number of loyal people who will regard these as a separate reason for repeating their visit. We have already spoken of these pictures—worthy of commendation, not only on account of the object for the benefit of which they were contributed, but, as works of art, more promising than most Royal performances in the same direction.

Apart from these, however, the catalogue refers to 395 drawings, a large number of which are admirable examples, while there are few that do not merit considerable attention. The excellent selection and arrangement of the drawings make the duty of noticing them comparatively easy; and the committee are to be congratulated on the success with which so many small works are exhibited within the compass of a space that is made adequate because of the skill and experience with which it is utilised. It is no little advantage, either, to have secured the able assistance of Mr. T. J. Gullick as honorary secretary of the institution.

Among the first fine group of pictures we must mention "Rainy Weather," by A. Stanley—a bold, free drawing; well contrasted with the fine tender tints of Mr. A. MacCallum's "Keeper's Cottage," a very charming work, full of the bloom of heather. "Evening—St. Sulpice, Lake Lemán," is a fine dark picture by Mr. E. A. Waterlow; and near it are two admirable works, "The Geryst, near Dinas Mowdd," by S. H. Baker, and "On the Marshes at Tenby," by Alfred W. Williams—a finely-handled and effective bit of broad landscape. "Sidi Akbar Ben-Ali" is a firm and striking study of a head by Miss Edith Martineau.

Mr. Henry has sent one of his charming pictures of the interior of St. Mark's, Venice; and on the same wall is a very sweet bit of colouring, "The Way to the Lovers' Seat, Hastings," by N. E. Green, who has a companion picture at a little distance, showing the country near Fairlight. Two beautiful works, "A View in Richmond Park," by G. Lucas, and "A Farm-yard—Mallwyd, North Wales," by Alfred Baker, are respectively full of tender colour, and are both remarkable for ease and precision of execution. A charming group of wingless cupids in an orchard, where they are regaling on fruit, is Lorenz Fröhlich's contribution to the gallery, under the title of "Enjoyment of Plenty;" while Carl Haag exhibits a finely-rendered half-length female figure, superb in its depth of tone and for its forcible, yet delicate drawing. "Early Morning near Tenby," by Alfred H. Williams, and "Going to the Cattle Fair," by Aster Corbould, are both admirable, the latter being more interesting than the usual run of cattle pieces, because of the excellent scene of the old stone bridge beside which the thirsty kine diverge from the road to seek the water.

"On the Arun Canal," by Mr. W. H. Mason, is another exquisite piece of water; limpid, and with fine suggestive handling of the green, reedy banks, so fresh and cool by the shadow of the old timber lock-gate. "A Mill Stream," by W. M. Williamson, is also an excellent bit of drawing. "Snowdon from the Moors," by J. J. Curnock, is a charming little picture, the light of which is in excellent keeping with the heather of the foreground. Mr. H. Carter sends a capital scene of "Westphalian Cottage Life"—a mother hearing her boy read—admirable for its clean finish and texture. Mr. J. Steeple's "Mountain Torrent in the Llugwy Valley" is a bold and striking work, sure to arrest attention, even though it is next to Mr. H. Wallis's fine picture, "Ser Pandolfo," in which the two figures of the slumbering superior and the half saucy, half timid boy are wonderfully depicted, with a depth of tone and harmony of colour that are of the highest order. In his picture called "Coastguard," Mr. J. W. Bottomley has done admirable work. The men looking out from their hut upon the storm raging almost to the very door are to the life, in their rugged homely garb, and each face is a fine study of concentrated expression. This picture is one of the best water-colour drawings of the season, full of honest work and distinctive character. "A Summer Shower," by E. M. Wimperis, is a pretty little picture, with charming finish; and near it is a capital drawing, "Prudhoe Castle," by Mr. Mason Jackson, exhibiting his characteristic vigour and knowledge of effect. "Pot Luck," a humorous representation of the misadventure of a cat and kitten who have made a raid upon a breakfast-table, is the work of Mr. H. H. Coudery, and will surely be a favourite with "the general visitor." A magnificent half-length portrait, "Marguerite Bellanger," by F. Volk, is full of power and fine colour; and a remarkable picture by P. Friolo, entitled "Vanity," and representing a girl decking herself with jewels, is also a fine work.

"Nant Francon, North Wales," by S. H. Baker, is excellent in colour and clearness; and just beneath it is C. Vacher's glorious "Cader Idris." With this latter picture we must notice J. J. Bannatyne's "Bridge on the Cladich River, Argyleshire," conspicuous for its beauty and breadth of handling.

"The Charcoal-Burner's Hut, Upper Valley of the Inn," by Harry Johnson; W. H. Cubley's "On the Conway;" and Mr. A. Wast's "Mountain Torrent, Norway," are all excellent, and admirably illustrate the uniform quality and yet the charming variety of the exhibition. Further on we have "A Wild Sunset—Cornwall," by J. Nash, jun.—a bold work, both in drawing and colour; and one of Andrew MacCallum's wonderful tree-scenes, "The Cedars, Chiswick," full of grand shadows and solid yet moving foliage. A very humorous little bit is H. B. Roberts's "Launce and Speed"—so good that we could wish there had been more of such subjects in the gallery; but water-colour exhibitions are mostly of land and water scene; a variety occurring occasionally in such an exquisite bit as "Resting," by R. Beavis, where the sleek cattle almost low from the canvas.

It would be impossible to do more than indicate even a few of the works in this gallery, and we can now merely refer to a number of charming little pictures exhibited on the screens, where they have the advantage of being in a good light. Of these we will only mention "The Pet Kid," by J. Bouvier; "A Sea-Urchin," by H. Tidey; an exquisite bit of rural life, entitled "Spring," by F. Williamson; and a highly-humorous drawing of four characteristic heads, representing "The Miss Kenwigses Taking their First French Lesson," by W. Gale.

THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS.—Colonel James Macnaghten Hogg has been elected Chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, the final division giving him twenty-four votes as against twelve recorded for Mr. Dalton. The gallant Colonel is the eldest son of Sir James Weir Hogg, Bart., a member of the Indian Council, who represented Beverley and Honiton in previous Parliaments. He was born at Calcutta in 1823; and was married, in 1857, to Caroline Elizabeth Emma, eldest daughter of Lord Penrhyn. Colonel Hogg was educated at Eton, and at Christ Church, Oxford. He joined the 1st Life Guards in 1843, became Major and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1855, and retired in 1859. At the general election of 1865 he was returned, with Sir William Tite, for the city of Bath without opposition. In the House of Commons he was a steady supporter of the Conservative party. He described himself as "not opposed to progress, but against all rash and dangerous innovations; in favour of the relief of Dissenters from church rates, and of retrenchment in the national expenditure, but not so as to impair the efficiency of the Army and Navy." At the general election of 1868 Colonel Hogg was defeated at Bath by Mr. Dairymple, the present junior member for that city, who polled 2187 votes, against 224 given for the new chairman of the Metropolitan Board. Since that time he has been without a seat in Parliament.

MOUCHARDS AT TOURS.

Tours is swarming with spies; not Prussian spies, but old employés of M. Pietri, either on half-pay or out of work, and on the look-out for a job. Many of them are well known by sight to Paris habitués. Some, I fancy, must be working almost as amateurs, from love of their old trade, and with scarcely a hope of even long-deferred remuneration. The tribe generally is tolerably well dressed, and has plenty of pocket-money. They buzz in and out of the principal cafés twenty times a day, evading when they can the inevitable question, "Qu'est ce que Monsieur veut prendre?" but still frequently paying for consumption. They get inconveniently, often impudently, near to people who are talking, and do not scruple to look over the shoulder of anybody writing. Often they endeavour to scrape acquaintance under the pretext of joining in a conversation of general interest, or asking whether you are not a particular friend of M. Dupont, of the Rue Scribe. When found out or suspected, they take a rebuff meekly, muttering something about their extreme sensitiveness on the point of honour, but look a little abashed, and avoid trying it on in the same quarter again. These gentry hang all day about the corners of the streets abutting on the Rue Royale, and follow anybody concerning whose business in Tours they are not sufficiently informed. When they see their attentions are perceived they turn down the first side-street, and look carelessly into a shop, resigning the chase, very probably, to some colleague. In the neighbourhood of the Archêvêché, the Prefecture, and the Hôtel de Bordeaux, they abound day and night. M. Thiers goes to see nobody, and nobody goes to see M. Thiers, without many reports being drawn up for the instruction of those presumed to be interested in his movements; and a constant watch is set upon the visitors to M. Gambetta. A great many of these people are very fussy about army tenders which they pretend to have made from purely patriotic motives, and they are loud in their denunciations of the official delays which prevent the country from profiting by their offers. This class of spy would operate with more success in a great metropolis than in a little town like Tours, where what news there is spreads quickly. There are men in Tours who arrived two months ago about a contract for cannon; then said they were negotiating in Manchester a great affair in breeches; afterwards came out strong in the corn line; subsequently took to saddlery; and still continue to potter about without even remembering their original story. This class of society, which played a great part under the empire, and does not readily adapt itself to a more reputable means of livelihood, is now comparatively harmless. The large staff now on *disponibilité* can no longer get a man imprisoned on a secret denunciation. But it must have accumulated at Tours alone a large stock of reports which are at the service of the highest bidder.

SACRILEGE.

At Marylebone Police Court, on Tuesday, John Henry Jarrett, twenty, and James Palmer, twenty-two, were charged with breaking and entering the Roman Catholic Chapel in Homer-row, Marylebone-road. The evidence showed that the prisoners had forced open a door between the school-room and the chapel, and had then, by means of an ingeniously-constructed centribit, bored a hole in the lock of the iron safe and forced a charge of gunpowder through a piece of iron tubing into the lock, which they had thus blown out. A centribit and jemmy, which fitted the marks on the door and the safe, were found at the lodgings of the prisoner Jarrett. From the safe the burglars had carried off a silver-gilt monstrance, worth £50, a silver thurible and chains, and a silver-gilt chalice, altogether worth £80. Some important evidence was given by Detective M'Math, who went into an empty cell, between the cells in which the prisoners were placed, and wrote down their conversation. It is believed that something which the prisoners then said may lead to the discovery of some other church property stolen by them. M'Math stated that Palmer called out to his companion, "What's the name of that church where the bloke let us in?" Jarrett answered that he did not know the name of the church, but the man was called "John." Palmer resumed, "It's a good job they didn't go to his place, for they would have found some stuff. We can tell my 'old woman,' and she will put him on his guard. If we had known they would have found that fellow who picked me out, we would have left him unable to say much." The latter sentence referred to a witness named Thomas Stevens, harness-maker, who stated that, on Nov. 3, about a quarter-past twelve o'clock at night, he was passing through Homer-row. It was very foggy, and he was carrying a torch. Hearing whispering near the chapel-door, he looked more closely, and saw two men. He held his light into the face of one of them, who was the prisoner Palmer. The other man was about the size of Jarrett. They went into the chapel and closed the door after them. W. Watts, detective B division, searched Jarrett's lodgings, and found there certain housebreaking implements, and a black leather bag, which was identified by the Rev. George Stevens, of No. 8, Clapham-park-road, who left it in the chapel on Oct. 15 last. This completed the case, and the prisoners were formally committed for trial. The prisoner Jarrett was then charged with breaking and entering the Catholic and Apostolic Church, College-street, Chelsea. Mr. Thomas Evans, of 12, College-street, a deacon, said he locked up the church on Sept. 28, about nine o'clock in the evening, and saw all safe. On the following morning he found that an iron safe had been forced open, and a censer, a boat for incense, and a spoon, of silver, and together worth about £20, had been stolen. He also missed the two napkins produced, marked with the name of the church. Sergeant Squire White, detective of the B division, was called to the church, and found that an entry had been effected by raising a cellar plate in a piece of waste ground, through which access was gained to the coal-cellar, whence a passage opened into the church. The intervening doors had been forced open, and the screws drawn from the lock of the front door. He had known the prisoners as constant companions for about two years. Detective Clough found the two napkins produced in Jarrett's

lodgings. Sergeant Franklin, 25 W, said he was present at the May sessions, Newington, in 1869, when the prisoner Palmer was convicted of a burglary and sentenced to be imprisoned for six months. Inspector Palmer said he should be able to bring witnesses to prove the prisoners were the men who, on Sept. 22, broke into Shoreditch church and carried off about 270 oz. of silver plate. The prisoners were then remanded. The long passage through which the prisoners have to be conducted from the police-van to the cells was lined with people, many of whom were with difficulty prevented by the police from assaulting the two men accused of sacrilege.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, NOV. 18.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—F. A. DOWNING, Great Russell-street, engineer;—T. J. SHAW, Over Darwen. **BANKRUPTS.**—F. ESS-EX and H. GIBBS, Vauxhall-works, manufacturers;—Sir M. W. T. FARQUHAR, Colchester-road, Earl's-court, Brompton;—J. MASON, Paxton-terrace, Anerley-road, Norwood; dealer in sewing-machines;—R. HAMFORD, Deane, Northamptonshire;—T. DAVIES, Llandilo, general merchant;—W. D. BLACKBURN, and E. PAWSON, Liverpool, common brewers;—J. and W. FORDER, Norfolk, cordwainers;—J. FOSTER, Dudley, general dealer;—J. HALLSALL, Liverpool, licensed victualler;—J. WARDEN, Austell, miller;—R. JARRETT, Mickleton, Gloucestershire, carrier;—F. SMITH, Bristol, horsehair manufacturer;—D. MCINTOSH, Colchester, draper;—J. MCCOLLUGH, Liverpool, merchant;—E. and T. RIDINGS, Liverpool, merchants;—J. P. SELMON, Plymouth, corn-dealer;—G. A. F. SYERS, Anerley-grove, Upper Norwood;—J. THOMAS, Brittonferry, Glamorganshire, draper;—G. HARMSWORTH, Kingston and Teddington, wine merchant;—SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—T. YOU'NG, Glasgow;—CALLENDER and SON, Glasgow, contractors;—J. ROBINSON, Glasgow, provision-dealer.

TUESDAY, NOV. 22.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.—J. JOHNSON, Folkestone, Innkeeper;—T. S. WATTS, Kent-street, borough, grocer. **BANKRUPTS.**—J. E. HOWLES, Goding-street, Vauxhall-gardens, publican;—A. ELBOUGH, College-street, Tottenham, publican;—E. BROWN, 10, Tottenham, Tynemouth, butcher;—J. C. HULLOCK, Hall, grocer;—C. T. LUBKE, Yarmouth, coal merchant;—T. MARSH, Newport, salop, plumber;—H. and E. MILLER, Garston, shipbuilders;—J. MCNEILL, Maitland, miller;—H. RAWLINS, Whitchurch, N. TUNSTALL, Everton;—J. WARD, Liverpool, cattle salesman. **SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.**—G. M. BROWN, Glasgow, yarn and commission agent;—W. FARQUHAR, Portobello, grocer;—J. TEMPLETON, Irvine, innkeeper.

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The Vivandiere ditto, 31s., 34s., 45s.
The Rich Foreign Velvet, 24s. to 29s.
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The Isle of Wight Costume, 2 1/2s. to 3 1/2s.;
The Princess Louise Costume, 3s. to 4 1/2s.;
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